CHAPTER I.--PRICES.

§ 1. Wholesale Prices.

1. General.—The results of an investigation into wholesale prices in Melbourne from 1861 to 1923 were given in some detail in previous Reports. In this Section results are included for the year 1924.

The data upon which the investigation is based were obtained mainly from reports of Melbourne market prices published in the ordinary press and in special trade reviews. In any case of doubt as to the reliability of the figures, the records thus obtained were verified by reference to well-known business firms dealing in the articles in question. Every care was taken to ensure that the prices quoted for each article refer to a uniform quality, and, in cases where more than one source of information was utilized for obtaining prices of single commodities, special precautions were taken to ensure substantial continuity of quality or grade. In most cases, monthly prices were obtained (but where daily or weekly quotations were available, these were adopted), and arithmetic averages for the several years were computed. In regard, however, to a few commodities, such as coal, tea, cotton and wool, since monthly prices were not available for back years, yearly averages, based in each case on reliable data, were secured.

It was at first intended to obtain records on the lines indicated for a uniform list of commodities for the capital city in each State. Owing, however, to the large amount of work involved, and to the difficulty experienced in obtaining regularly the prices of anything like a uniform representative list of commodities from the information published in some of these citics, this idea has for the present been abandoned.

2. **Basis.**—Retail prices have the advantage that a comparatively small list of commodities suffices to represent a large proportion of the average expenditure. They are, however, subject to the difficulty that their variations depend largely upon local conditions, and it is, therefore, necessary to collect the data over a wide area. Wholesale prices, on the other hand, are fixed usually at one or two centres, but a much larger list of commodities must be covered.

The index-numbers up to the year 1911 are based on the prices of 80 commodities, but since that year the number has been increased to 92.* The methods followed for the computation of the wholesale price indexnumbers are the same as those adopted in regard to retail prices. The commodities included, the units of measurements for which the prices are taken, and the mass-units indicating the relative extent to which each commodity, in the units of measurement specified is used or consumed, are shown in the following statement.

^{*} In the computation of the index-numbers for years prior to 1911, the aggregate expenditure on 80 commodities in 1911 is taken as base (= 1000), while for later years the aggregate expenditure on 92 commodities in 1911 is taken.

| Commodity. | Brand. | Unit. | Mass Unit, | Commodity. | Brand | Unit | Maes Unit, |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| • | GROUP I | . <u>.</u> | | | GROUP V. | | |
| iron— Fig Itod and Bar Angle and T Plate Hoop Galvanized Tianed Plates Fencing Wire | Mxd Nos Stafford 26 gauge 1.C. Coke No. 8 | ton ¹¹ | 60 60 60 60 | Curranis Raisins Herrings Satmon Sardines Coffee Cocoa | Sultanas I-lb. fresh I lb. tall Alaska Halves Piantation McKenzie's | ib. doz. ¹¹ -ib. tins doz. halves lb. | 1,400 1,400 50 50 100 200 100 |
| Zinc, sheet Lead, sheet , Plocs Copper, sheet , Quicksilver Coal | Newcastle, on wharf | ii. tön | 1 2,000 12 600 | Sugai Macaroni Sago Itico Salt Mustard | No. 1A Australian fino Rock Coleman's | ton ib. cwt. ton " doz. 1.1b, | 22 200 2 7 7 |
| | GROUP II. | | | Starch Blue | Coleman's White Keen's | | 100 50 |
| Branbags Cornsacks Woolpacks | | doz, each | 110 250 200 | Candles Tobacco . | Adstration Safety Rangoon Two Seas Po ket Fes. | jb. | 1,000 1,300 |
| Waxed Kip Waxed Split Light Crop Cotton Wool | Raw Greasy | 1b. " | 600 600 24,000 12,200 | Erasene | | gallon | 3,000 1,700 |
| Twine | Reaper and Binder Mutton | ., ton | 150 1 3 | Beef | GROUP VI | 100 lbs. | <u>-</u> . 390 |
| | GROUP I | , IT. | | Mutton . Veal Lamb Pork | quality , | 1b. ., , | 33,000 2,000 5,000 3,700 |
| Wheat Flour | | bushel ton | 500 48 | | GROUP VL | . <u> </u> | |
| Dran Pollard Oats Barley Maize Hay Chaft Straw Potatoes Onions | Milling Coloniai Malting Feed Dest Mngr. Prime Victorian Victorian | " bushel ton bushel " ton bushel ton bushel ton | 14 1,200 1,200 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,35 25 55 40 140 3 | Coment White Lead Slates | Flooring 6 x 1 6 x 2 6 x 2 6 x 4 Weathor- boards Oregon Shelving Portland Welsh 20 x 10 | 160 ft, Sin, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, | 30 30 30 200 200 20 10 30 20 |
| | GROUP IV | • | | | GROUP VII | | |
| Ham Bacon Cheese Butter Eggs Honey Decswax Condensed Milk | Best Fresh Bulk Ordinary Bacchus Marsh | lb. " " doz. tb. doz, lb. | 800 3,200 1,500 9,500 200 1,800 600 40 160 | Cream of Tartar Carbonate of Soda Saltpetro Sulphur Caustic Soda Alum Cyanide Potas- sium | In kegs Refined Lump | Ib. ion ;; cwt. ton ib. | 400 1 2 1 7 4 570 |

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Commodities included, Units of Measurement, and "Mass-Units."

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WHOLESALE PRICES.

3 Index-Numbers.—index-numbers have been computed for each group of commodities, as well as for all groups combined. These indexnumbers are shown in the following table —

| Melbourne | Wholesale | Prices | Index-Numbers, | 1861 | to | 1924, | Computed | with | Year | 1911 |
|-----------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|----|-------|----------|------|------|------|
| | | | as Base (=- | 1,000) | | | | | | |

| ¥e?k | I. Metais and Coal. | II. Jute, Leather, <u>&c.</u> | III. Agricul- tural Pro- docc, &o. | IV. Dairy Produce. | V. Grocer- les. | VI. Meat. | VII. Building Materials, | VIII. Chemi- cals. | All Com- modifies together, |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1861 1871 1881 1891 1901 | 1,438 1,090 1,178 895 1,061 | 1.381 1,257 1,115 . 847 774 | 1,583 1,230 1,012 1,024 928 | 1,008 864 935 995 1,029 | 1,963 1,586 1,421 1,032 1,048 | 1,345 | 1,070 1,044 1,091 780 841 | 2,030 1,409 1,587 1,194 917 | 1,538 1,229 1,121 945 974 |
| 1911 1912 1913 1914 1915 1916 1918 1919 1919 1921 1922 1922 | 1,000 1,021 1,046 1,096 1,284 1,695 2,120 2,410 2,125 2,288 2,173 1,042 1,896 | 1,000 901 1,070 1,032 1,017 1,420 2,009 2,363 2,624 1,362 1,681 1,681 | 1,000 1,370 1,007 2,162 1,208 1,157 1,444 1,085 2,430 1,707 1,628 1,707 | 1,000 1,206 1,054 1,137 1,530 1,485 1,423 1,454 1,651 2,209 2,000 1,648 | 1,000 1,062 1,024 1,021 1,133 1,322 1,343 1,422 1,516 1,518 1,976 1,976 | 1,000 1,357 1,252 1,507 2,435 2,515 2,403 2,385 2,385 2,385 2,348 3,279 2,158 1,787 2,570 | 1,000 1,067 1,128 1,081 1,275 1,401 1,354 2,686 2,851 3,320 2,733 2,005 | 1,000 978 995 1,253 1,528 1,700 2,171 3,225 2,808 2,803 2,803 1,905 | 1,000 1,170 3,988 1,149 1,604 1,604 1,602 1,934 2,065 2,480 1,903 1,758 |

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns, but are not directly comparable herizontally. The index-numbers are reversible.

The index-numbers have in each case been computed with the prices in the year 1911 as base; that is to say, they show the amount which would have had to be expended in each of the years specified in order to purchase what would have cost £1,000 in 1911 distributed in purchasing the relative quantities (indicated by the mass-units) of the several commodities included in such group, and in all groups respectively. Thus, in the last column the cost of the relative quantities of the various commodities was 1,229 in 1871, and 974 in 1901, as compared with 1,000 in 1911 and 1,885 in 1924. In other words, prices were lower in 1911 than in either 1871 or 1924, and the purchasing-power of money in 1911 was accordingly greater. Again, prices were higher in 1911 than in 1901, and the purchasing-power of money in the former year was therefore less.

The general index-number for the year 1924 shows a decrease of 3.0 per cent. compared with that for 1923. In Groups I. and II. increases of 0.5 and 12.6 per cent. respectively were recorded. All other groups showed decreases ranging from 1.4 per cent. in the case of Group V. (Groceries) to 13.8 per cent. in Group VI. (Meat).

The index-numbers for the full period from 1871 to 1911 (and for 1861 and 1866) are given in Report No. 1, page 48.

4. Quarterly Variations in Price Levels.—The following table gives the index-numbers for the four quarters of 1924 and the first quarter of 1925:--

| | | Index Numbers. | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Group. | No. of Com- modities. | Jan. to March, 1924. | A pril ta: Juno, 1924. | July to Sept., 1924, | Oct. to Dec., 1924. | Jan. to March. 1925. | | | |
| I. Metals and Coal II. Textiles, Leather, etc. III. Agricultural Produce IV. Dairy Produce V. Grocerics VI. Meat VIT. Building Materials VIII. Chomicais | 14 10 16 9 21 5 10 7 | 1,890 2,586 1,660 1,725 1,715 2,383 1,955 1,818 | 1,932 2,448 1,603 1,649 1,714 2,232 1,875 1,805 | 1,800 2,280 1,654 1,089 1,723 2,004 1,764 1,785 | 1,843 2,357 1,671 1,568 1,733 2,212 1,064 1,784 | 1,842 2,244 1,670 1,498 1,742 2,239 1,676 1,784 | | | |
| All Groups* | . 92 | 1,946 | r,880 | 1,848 | 1,866 | 1,843 | | | |

Melbourne Wholesale Prices—Quarterly Index-Numbers for 1924 and First Quarter, 1925 (Base 1911 = 1,000).

* Weightod average.

5. Variations since Outbreak of War.—The variations in the indexnumbers of the separate commodity groups for the years 1915 to 1924, and for each month from January, 1924, to April, 1925, are shown in the following table, taking July, 1914, the last month before the outbreak of war, as base (=1,000) for each group :—

| Melbourne | Wholesale | Prices, | Index-Numbers, | July 1914, | Years 1 | 1915 to 1924, | and Monthly, |
|-----------|-----------|---------|----------------|------------|----------|---------------|--------------|
| | January, | 1924, t | o April, 1925. | (Base July | , 1914 - | = 1,000). | -, |

| Perio | 1, | I. Metals and Coal, | 11. Textiles Leather, etc. | fil. Agri- cultural Produce. | IV. Dairy Pro- duce. | V. Grocerles. | VI. Meat. | VII. Buikiling Mater- Inis. | VIII Chemi- cals: | , All Groups: |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| July 1014 Vear 1915 , 1010 , 1917 , 1918 , 1918 , 1919 , 1929 , 1921 , 1923 , 1924 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | 1,000 1,166 1,539 1,919 2,107 1,930 2,001 1,974 1,763 1,058 1,067 | 1,000 984 1,807 1,841 2,324 2,169 2,430 1,250 1,254 1,972 2,220 | 1,000 2,024 1,130 1,084 1,858 2,288 1,658 1,6523 1,664 1,54J | 1,000 1,272 1,236 1,181 1,210 1,873 1,840 1,603 1,370 1,527 1,376 | 1,000 1,038 1,266 1,302 1,378 1,469 1,560 1,916 1,811 1,603 7,669 | 1,000 1,502 1,551 1,480 1,449 1,448 2,022 1,331 1,102 1,590 1,371 | 1,000 1,164 1,301 1,722 2,448 2,602 2,944 2,495 1,848 1,848 1,656 | 1,000 1,490 2,141 3,085 2,827 2,764 2,246 1,917 1,885 1,701 | 1,600 1,406 1,318 1,456 1,801 2,178 1,661 1,641 1,704 1,653 |
| Jan, Feb, March April May July July August Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. | 1924 ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, | 1,650 1,665 1,665 1,664 1,665 1,662 1,662 1,669 1,669 1,669 1,679 1,679 | 2,439 2,302 2,202 2,322 2,287 2,119 2,095 2,005 2,141 2,155 2,195 | 1,622 1,548 1,490 1,515 1,525 1,525 1,589 1,562 1,562 1,552 1,552 | 1,492 1;457 1,353 1,325 1,398 1,391 1,431 1,431 1,390 1,386 1,346 1,276 1,263 | 1,654 1,663 1,668 1,667 1,667 1,677 1,677 1,667 1,673 1,675 1,673 | 1,459 1,507 1,442 1,460 1,323 1,356 1,281 1,195 1,281 1,195 1,343 1,350 1,370 1,370 1,393 | 1,809 1,773 1,774 1,726 1,720 1,689 1,669 1,660 1,556 1,554 1,558 1,528 1,485 | 1,847 1,781 1,731 1,705 1,768 1,768 1,743 1,740 1,740 1,740 1,740 1,740 | 1,739 1,715 1,005 1,052 1,053 1,052 1,053 1,026 1,019 1,031 1,030 1,030 |
| Jan Feb. March A pril | 1925 " | 1,679 1,669 1,670 1,666 | 2,115 2,086 1,082 1,903 | 1,591 1,564 1,558 1,551 | 1,205 1,226 1,306 1,848 | 1,697 1,689 1,677 1,056 | 1,392 1,423 1,327 1,313 | 1,521 1,518 1,550 1,549 | 1,740 1,740 1,740 1,728 | 1,033 1,025 1,001 1,684 |

6. Seasonal Fluctuations.—In order to show the seasonal fluctuations in wholesale prices, index-numbers have been computed for each quarter of the year 1924. These are given in the following table, firstly, computed with the year 1911 as base, and secondly, with the average prices for the year 1924 as base. Corresponding figures for purchasing-power of money (retail prices of food, groceries and of house rent) have been included for comparative purposes.

| Pariloulars. | Jan. to March. | A prii- to June. | July to Sopt. | Oct. to Dec. | Whole Year. |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Wholesale Price Index-Numbers with 1911 as base (= 1,000) | 1,946 | 1,880- | 1,84\$ | 1,866- | 1,885 |
| Windesale Fride, juild X-Numbers with average for 1924 as base (= 1,000). Retail Price (Frond Gragories and House Bant) Indov. | 1,032 | 997 | 980 | 990 | 1,008 |
| Numbers with average for 1924 as base (\Rightarrow 1,000) | 1,008 | 1,602 | 995 | 99 4 | 1,000 |
| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | - ' | ' ' | · ' | | • |

Melbourne Wholesale and Retail Prices-Quarterly Index-Numbers, 1924.

In both wholesale and retail prices there was a decrease during the year 1924 as compared with the year 1923.

7. Prices, 1923 and 1924.—In Section 3 of the Appendix particulars are given as to the average prices of the particular brands of commodities used in computing the index-numbers in the years 1923 and 1924. Corresponding information for previous years as far back as 1871 was given in the Appendixes to previous Reports.

§ 2. Retail Prices-Food, Groceries, and Rent.

1. General.—In normal circumstances changes in the cost of living due to variations in prices and not to alteration in standard can best be measured by means of index-numbers of prices. A "composite unit," consisting of appropriate quantities of the commodities which enter into general consumption in Australia, and including housing accommodation, has, therefore, been adopted, and a comparison of the value of this composite unit at the prices ruling at any given date with the value determined by means of the prices ruling at some basic date furnishes the retail price indexnumber for the given date, and indicates the proportionate increase or decrease in the amount of money necessary to purchase such a composite unit. This method of computation is usually known as the "aggregate expenditure method." There are other methods of computing index-numbers, but probably none so satisfactorily combines simplicity of procedure with accuracy of result. Investigations concerning retail prices are made by this Bureau in respect of the following matters :---

- (i.) Monthly variation in the cost of food and groceries in 30 towns.
- (ii.) Quarterly variations in retail prices and house rent in 30 towns.
- (iii.) Quarterly variations in retail prices of clothing and miscellaneous expenditure in 30 towns.
- (iv.) Annual variations in retail prices and house rent in 200 towns.
- (v.) Intermittent Householders' Budget Inquiries.

In earlier reports the results of comprehensive investigations concerning prices and prices-indexes for past years were published, and an account was given of the methods used in the collection of data and the computation of results. A discussion of the theory upon which the calculation of the index-numbers is based was furnished in Appendixes to Report No. 1, issued in December, 1912. In Appendix 1, to Report No. 9, an endeavour was made to set forth the essentials of the problem and of its solution.

For further particulars concerning the "aggregate expenditure method" of index-numbers, reference may be made to Report No. 6, pages 19 and 20, and to Report No. 12, pages 22 and 23

2 Cost of Commodities, Standard of Living, and Expenditure on Living. —A change in the "cost of living" may be due to a change in the standard of living, or in the retail price level, or in both; the expenditure on living depends thus on three factors, viz. :—

- (i.) The nature of the commodities consumed ;
- (ii) The quantities of the commodities consumed ; and
- (iii.) The prices of these commodities.

A change in any one of these may produce a change in the expenditure on living. In order to obtain index-numbers that will satisfactorily measure variation in price level, it is necessary that the particular series of commodities selected, and the relative quantities of these, remain constant. This phase of the subject is dealt with more fully in Labour Report No. 1, Appendix VIII.; in Labour Report No. 5, pp. 17-18; in Labour Bulletin No. 9, pp. 27 to 46; in Labour Bulletin No. 14, pp. 127 to 130; and in Part II, of Appendix I. of Labour Report No. 9.

Notwithstanding the explicit statement of the purpose and scope of these investigations given in the various Labour Reports, misunderstanding in regard thereto is still prevalent. Many persons, having noticed that a different regimen gives a very different aggregate cost, have thought that the computed price-indexes must vary considerably with change of regimen. In Labour Bulletin No. 14, pp. 127 to 130, it is shown, by calculations based on widely different regimens, that the mode adopted of investigating retail price level is not vitiated by employing a fixed regimen. Where a standard of living, or living wage, has been fixed, the tables can be used as a basis to determine the variations in the cost of living until such time as the regimen used as a basis for estimation has ceased to be fairly representative of the usage of the community. Should a change be necessary, certain safeguards which have been indicated in Labour Report No. 1, Appendixes VIII. and IX., and further dealt with in Appendix I. of Labour Report No. 9 must be applied.

3. The Composite Unit.—The 47 items making up the "composite unit" may be divided into four groups, viz., (i.) groceries and bread, (ii.) dairy produce, (iii.) meat, (iv.) housing. The cost of these items covers about 60 per cent. of the total expenditure of a normal family.

Special investigations have been made with reference to variations in the cost of the items and services included in the balance of expenditure, and the results are given in § 3 of this Chapter.

The index-numbers computed on the basis of food, groceries, and housing in the past can be accepted as a fair reflection of the variation in the whole ordinary household expenditure in normal times. The question of procedure in abnormal circumstances was referred to in Labour Report No. 6, pp. 20 to 22.

The constitution of the " composite unit " is shown hereunder.

| | Commodity or Service. | | Unity of Quantity. | " Mass Unit." | Commodity or Service. | Unity of Quantity. | " Mass Unit." |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|-----------------------|--|
| | GROUP IGROCH | ERIES | (INCLUDING] | BREAD). | GROUP III. | —MEAT. | ····- |
| 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,0,1,2,3,4,15,16,17,18 | Bread Flour, ordinary Tea Coffee Sugar Sugar Jam Jam Raisins Oatmeal Raisins Suarch Blue Suarch Suarch Soap Potatoos Onions Kerosene | ••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••• | 2 lb. loaf 25 lb. bags ib. "" "" " doz. šqs. lb. 14 'bs. Ib. gallon | 463 11 30 2 460 50 8 73 35 14 14 14 16 64 65 17 | Beef, sirloin Beef, filb Beef, fank Beef, shuh Beef, stark, rump Beef, stark, stewing Beef, stark, stewing Beef, stark, stewing Beef, bisket, with bone Bone Bone Mutton, leg Mutton, loin Mutton, chops, loin Mutton, chops, loig Mutton, chops, loig Mutton, chops, loig | ib . | 67 82 12 14 53 39 11 11 32 62 62 30 62 15 33 |
| _ | GROUP II | -Dal | RY PRODUCTS | L | 43. Pork, leg | +1 +1 1> | 94 84 10 |
| 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, | Nilk Butter Cheese Bacon, middle Bacon, shoulder Ham | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | quart Ib. dozen Id. " | 300 95 15 18 26 16 8 | GROUP IV | | 40 |

Retail Prices .-- Composite Unit.

This inquiry so far as the capital cities are concerned goes back to 1901, and all possible precautions have been taken to ensure accuracy.

4. Other Investigations.—(i.) General.—As already indicated, these are concerned with (1) Annual variations in the price index-numbers for 200 towns, (2) the cost of living according to householders' budget inquiries, (3) special inquiries as to the cost of food, groceries, and housing in various towns and localities, and (4) the investigation by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage.

(ii.) Price-Indexes for 200 Towns.—An investigation as to variation in price-indexes for 100 Australian towns was carried out for the months of November, 1913, and November, 1914. From 1915 to 1922 the number of towns from which returns were collected annually was increased from 100 to 150, and from November, 1923, the number was further raised to 200. The results of the investigations for November of each year from 1913 to 1922 were published in various issues of the Report. Prior to 1912 investigations were made concerning the price-indexes in the capital cities only, but for 1912 and subsequent years monthly inquiries have been extended to 30 towns. The general agreement of the various results shows that the index-numbers published for the capital cities only, for the years prior to 1912, and for the 30 towns for 1912 and subsequent years, fairly indicate the variations in the cost of food, groceries, and housing in each State and throughout Australia

(iii.) Householders' Budgets.—The first collection of these was made in 1910-11, and the results, which covered a period of twelve months, were published in December, 1911. A second was made during 1913 for the month of November only, and results were given in a special report, entitled "Labour Report, No. 4, Expenditure on Living in the Commonwealth, November, 1913." In September, 1917, the Government of Western Australia appointed a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the cost of the necessaries of life in that State. Under the authority of this Commission budgets were obtained from householders showing their weekly expenditure in detail. The Commonwealth Statistician undertook the necessary analysis of the returns, and the report, when completed, was forwarded to the Western Australian Government, at whose request it was published in Labour Report No. 9, pp. 63-71.

(iv.) Special Investigations.—During recent years, in connexion with Arbitration Court proceedings, the question has been raised of the cost of living in certain country towns and districts as compared with the cost in the towns usually covered by the investigations of the Burcau. In order to ascertain the necessary particulars inquiries were made in over 100 towns and localities, and index-numbers were computed and submitted to the tribunals concerned.

(v.) Investigations by the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage.--In December, 1919, the Commonwealth Government appointed a Commission consisting of three representatives of Employers' Organizations, and three representatives of the Federated Trade Unions, with an independent Chairman. The terms of the Commission are given hereinafter.

16

This Commission issued two reports—the first in November, 1920, and the second in April, 1921. These reports show that, according to the standard assumed by the Commission, the cost of living as at the 1st November, 1920, for a family consisting of man, wife, and three children under fourteen years of age, was as follows :--

| Particulars. | Melbourno. | Sydney. | Brisbane. | Adelaide, | Porth. | Hobart. | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| Rent Food Clothing Missedlencous | E s. d. 1 0 6 2 6 2 1 9 0 1 0 10 | £ s. d. 1 2 0 2 6 9 1 7 0 1 1 4 | $\begin{array}{c} \pounds & s. \ d. \\ 0 & 17 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 6 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 1 \end{array}$ | £ s. d. 0 19 6 2 7 2 1 8 3 1 1 2 | $\begin{array}{c} \pounds & s. \ d. \\ 0 & 19 & 0 \\ 2 & 4 & 11 \\ 1 & 7 & 9 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \end{array}$ | £ s. d. 0 19 0 2 8 11 1 9 2 0 19 10 | |
| Total | 5 16 8 | 5171 | 562 | 5 16 1 | 5 13 11 | 5 16 11 | |

Royal Commission on Basic Wage-Cost of Living, 1st November, 1920.

The corresponding cost of the commodities and services included (which are fully set out in the first report) for the years 1914 to 1920 was as follows —

Royal Commission on Basic Wage-Cost of Commodities, etc., 1914 to 1920.

| Yoars | | Melbourne. | Sydney. | Brisbane. | Adelalde. | Perth. | Hobart. | |
|--|-------------------------|------------|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1914 1915 . 1916 . 1917 . 1918 . 1918 . 1919 . | ••• ••• ••• •• | | £ s. d. 3 12 11 4 1 6 4 4 6 4 9 8 4 14 8 5 5 3 5 17 1 | $\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | $\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | $\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | £ s. d. 3 6 9 3 15 1 3 15 8 4 4 10 4 8 6 5 0 4 5 16 11 | |

The results of investigations into the variation in the cost of living since 1920 according to this standard are given in § 3 of this Chapter.

5. Retail Prices—Capital Cities, 1901 to 1924.—(i.) General.—Index numbers, computed separately for each group of commodities and services included in the investigation, as well as the weighted average for all groups together, are shown for the capital city of each State in the following table. In this table the weighted aggregate expenditure for the whole of the capital cities in 1911 for each group or combination is taken as base (= 1,000), and the figures for the separate cities give the relative cost of the regimen. These index-numbers are comparable in all respects within the limits of a group or combination, since within such limits they show not only the variations from year to year, in each city, but comparisons also as to the relative cost in the different cities for the same year or for different years :—

Retail Price Index-Numbers-Capital Cities, 1901 to 1924.+

The index-numbers given in the scharate parts of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of (say) housing, and food and groectics, since the weighted average cost for the six cities taken together in 1914 in each group or combination is made equal to 1,000.

| Town. | 1901. 1907 | . 1911. 191 | 4. 1915 | 1017 | 1918. | 1919. | 1020. | 1021. | 1922. | 1923. | 1924. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| | · | GROU | P 1G | ROCER | urs. | | | | | | |
| Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide Perth Hobart | 876 904 897 817 1,011 961 919 903 1,006 1,013 935 888 | 1,018 1,11 7 024 96 1,087 1,0 3 058 1,06 3 1,276 1,11 3 1,063 1,07 | 12 1,281 96 1,222 76 1,331 31 1,310 18 1,351 70 1,250 | 1,320 1,188 1,323 1,210 1,329 1,203 | 1,393 1,203 1,400 1,344 1,304 1,304 | 1,710 1,526 1,795 1,592 1,618 1,582 | 2,130 1,926 2,155 2,030 2,003 1,995 | 1,976 1,897 1,958 1,907 1,955 1,927 | 1,837 1,705 1.841 1,760 1,729 1,758 | 1,833 1,708 1,832 1,744 1,692 1,704 | 1,710 1,575 1,685 1,643 1,627 1,683 |
| Weighted Average* | 912 88 | 5 1,000 1,00 | 32 1,272 | 1,261 | 1,842 | 1,631 | 2,039 | 1,037 | 1,774 | 1,770 | 1,050 |
| | | GROUP I | IDAT | RY PR | DDUOR. | | | | | | |
| Swiney Me,bourne Brisbane Adelaiue Perth Hebart Weighted Average* | 881 932 069 967 833 833 075 026 1,200 1,200 931 955 945 955 | 971 1,11 959 1,03 983 99 1,103 1,12 1,241 1,2 994 1,13 1,000 1,10 | 10 1,221 75 1,350 95 1,277 94 1,360 14 1,475 77 1,439 98 1,807 | 1,319 1,271 1,204 1,228 1,406 1,313 1,295 | 1,858 1,325 1,334 1,815 1,427 1,365 1,345 | 1,578 1,454 1,573 1,487 1,617 1,540 1,526 | 1,957 1,929 1,810 1,887 1,954 1,970 1,928 | 1,828 1,840 1,664 1,723 1,951 1,848 1,815 | 1,676 1,595 1,562 1,578 1,7,10 1,539 1,627 | 1,831 1,745 1,67) 1,684 1,806 1,665 1,707 | 1,000 1,604 1,558 1,626 1,720 1,540 |
| | <u> </u> | [Gr(| | -MEN | r. | | | | | | |
| Sjdnry Melbourne Adelnide Parth Hobart Weighted Average ⁴ | 1,025 904 1,077 1,047 1,020 1,034 1,221 1,056 1,378 1,511 1,225 1,275 1,101 1,074 | 959 1,28 929 1,27 935 1,16 1,037 1,50 1,577 1,65 1,221 1,49 1,600 1,35 | 1,778 1,800 1,800 1,549 1,930 1,722 1,781 1,781 | 2,154 1,949 1,667 2,070 1,913 2,274 2,022 | 2,020 1,963 1,819 2,169 1,708 2,427 1,992 | 2,125 1,956 1,905 2,187 2,200 2,256 2,063 | 2,383 2,414 2,126 2,567 2,224 2,645 2,390 | 1,838 1,972 1,719 2,097 2,113 2,382 1,034 | 1,409 1,501 1,256 1,813 1,004 2,128 1,587 | 1,788 2,020 1,468 2,100 2.084 2,345 1,904 | 1,845 1,958 1,838 2,222 2,530 2,463 1,982 |
| QR | 1 00PS 1., TF, | AND III. | COMBIN | E0.—F | 000 4 | ND GE | | BS. | | | |
| Sydnoy | 917 036 965 945 965 947 1,028 951 1,184 1,107 1,011 1,040 972 955 | 989 1,14 935 1,05 1,018 1,07 1,020 1,21 1,346 1,30 1,058 1,21 1,000 1,14 | 6 1,396 1,411 1,411 1,378 1,487 2 1,483 2 1,445 1,445 1,416 | 1,540 1,412 1,406 1,445 1,505 1,544 1,472 | 1,549 1,468 1,495 1,554 1,486 1,635 1,514 | 1,783 1,620 1,762 1,719 1,772 1,748 1,716 | 2,148 2,056 2,052 2,132 2,050 2,162 2,161 | 1,808 1,901 1,812 1,906 1,905 2,025 1,902 | 1,703 1,644 1,608 1,723 1,776 1,794 1,684 | 1,820 1,802 1,693 1,828 1,82 1,863 1,805 | 1,732 1,684 1,690 1,791 1,891 1,849 1,732 |
| | GROUP IV | -Housina | WEIGHT | red Av | BRAGI | 8 4 1, 1, | Нолее | s). | | | |
| Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adolaide Porth Hobart | 858 911 733 804 488 570 629 812 801 684 667 708 | 1,090 1,23 970 1,15 767 88 1,112 1,04 810 01 805 91 | 79 1,220 26 1,085 32 859 40 932 14 848 14 928 | 1,215 1,124 859 959 874 951 | 1,25? 1,180 905 1,022 885 950 | 1,289 1,283 983 1,108 916 1,134 | 1,415 1,405 1,061 1,216 996 1,373 | 1,474 1,502 1,079 1,289 1,055 1,440 | 1,535 1,507 1,206 1,360 1,092 1,445 | 1,617 1,672 1,247 1,450 1,124 1,002 | 1,687 1,729 1,242 1,551 1,134 1,665 |
| Weighted Average* | 751 816 | 1,000 1,1 | 35 1.081 | 1,098 | t,143 | 1,215 | 1,833 | 1,404 | 1,480 | 1,55) | 1,60 9 |
| ^ | LL GROOPS | COMBINED. | -Food | Groç | ERIES, | AND | Boust | NG, | | | |
| Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide Perth Hobart | 893 026 870 875 769 704 864 894 1,027 986 869 886 | $\begin{array}{c} 1,031 \\ 950 \\ 1,10 \\ 915 \\ 1,058 \\ 1,126 \\ 1,126 \\ 954 \\ 1,05 \\ \end{array}$ | 1,323 5 1,277 1,162 13 1,259 13 1,259 13 1,222 00 1,233 | 1,408 1,294 1,181 1,245 1,246 1,301 | 1,427 1,349 1,252 1,335 1,239 1,35% | 1,580 1,481 1,442 1,408 1,420 1,496 | 1,847 1,788 1,045 1,756 1,617 1,837 | 1,724 1,737 1,511 1,653 1,609 1,785 | 1,634 1,625 1,442 1,574 1,495 1,651 | 1,737 1,749 1,510 1,570 1,538 1,75 | 1,714 1 703 1,506 1,693 1,586 1,773 |
| Weighted Average* | 880 897 | 1,000 1,14 | 0 1,278 | 1,318 | 1,362 | 1,510 | 1,785 | 1.697 | 1,600 | 1,700 | 1,682 |

Note .- As to basis of index-numbers, see remarks on pages 13 to 16.

* For all capital cities,

† Index-numbers for years 1902-13 are given in Labour Report No. 6, p. 28, and for 1916 in Labour Report No. 14, p. 29. (ii.) Groceries (18 Commodities).—The index-number for this group was lower in 1924 than in 1923 in all the capital cities. The decrease for all cities in 1924 compared with 1923 amounts to 6.8 per cent.; compared with 1911 there has been an increase of 65.0 per cent.; and compared with 1901 an increase of 80.9 per cent. The average cost in 1924 of the commodities included was highest in Sydney and lowest in Melbourne.

(iii.) Dairy Produce (7 Commodities).—The index-numbers for this group were lower for 1924 than for 1923 in all the capitals. The index-number for all the cities in 1924 was 7.8 per cent. lower than in 1923, 63.0 per cent. higher than in 1911, and 72.5 per cent. higher than in 1901. The average cost in 1924 of the commodities was highest in Perth and lowest in Hobart.

(iv.) Meat (21 Cuts or Joints of Butcher's Meat).—The index-numbers for this group were higher in 1924 than in 1923 in all the capital cities except Melbourne. The index-number for all the cities in 1924 was 4.1 per cent. higher than in 1923; 98.2 per cent. higher than in 1911, and 80.0 per cent. higher than in 1901. The average cost for 1924 of the commodities included was highest in Perth and lowest in Brisbane.

(v.) Food and Groceries (Groups I., II., and III. combined).—The indexnumbers for this group show the aggregate effect of movements in prices of commodities, apart from variations in house rent. There was a decrease in 1924 as compared with 1923 in all the cities except Perth. Taking the weighted average for all the capitals, the prices of the 46 items of food and groceries specified on page 26 were 4.0 per cent. lower in 1924 than in 1923, 73.2 per cent. higher than in 1911, and 78.2 per cent. higher than in 1901. The average cost of these items for 1924 was highest in Perth and lowest in Melbourne.

(vi.) Housing.—Except in Adelaide—where ronts remained stationary from 1901 to 1904, and fell in 1913—and in Perth—where they decreased from 1903 to 1907, and again in 1908–9 and 1914—there was an increase in house rents in each of the capitals from 1901 to 1914. The abnormal situation due to the war resulted in entirely changed conditions for the years 1915 to 1924. For 1915 there was a decrease in the cost of housing in all the cities except Hobart, where there was a small increase. In 1916 Melbourne and Perth showed slight increases, Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide slight decreases, while the index-number for Hobart was the same for 1916 as for 1915. From 1917 to 1924, there was an increase in all the cities with the exception of Brisbane, which showed a slight decrease in 1924 as compared with 1923. The index-number for 1924 is 3.7 per cent. higher than for 1923, 60.9 per cent. higher than for 1911, and 114.2 per cent. higher than for 1901. The greatest increase since 1901 has occurred in Brisbane (154.5 per cent.), followed in the order named by Hobart (149.6 per cent.), Adelaide (146.6 per cent.), Melbourne (135.9 per cent.); Sydney (96.6 per cent), and Perth (41.6 per cent.).

(vii.) Food, Groceries, and Housing combined.-The weighted average index-numbers for the combined expenditure upon these items show a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in 1924 compared with 1923, an increase of 68.2 per cent. compared with 1911, and 91.1 per cent. compared with 1901. The index-number was lower in 1904 than in any other year during the period covered by these investigations. It rose in 1905 and 1906, but fell in 1907 There was a substantial rise in 1908, followed by a slight decline in 1909 Further rises occurred in 1910 and 1911, and again in 1912, when the increase was considerable (10.1 per cent.). The index-number for 1913 was practically the same as for 1912, but in 1914 there was a rise of 3, 2 per cent., in 1915. of 12, 1 per cent., and in 1916 of 3.6 per cent. The index-number for 1917 was 0.5 per cent, lower than for 1916, but in 1918 there was a rise of 3.3 per cent. The figure for 1919 showed a rise of 10.9 per cent., and there was a further sharp rise of 18.2 per cent. for 1920, the highest recorded. The index-number for 1921 showed a decline of 4.9 per cent. compared with 1920, and that for 1922 was 5.7 per cent. less than the figure for 1921. For 1923 there was a rise of 6.3 per cent. on the figure for 1922, while for 1924 the index-number was 1.1 per cent. lower than for 1923.

Compared with 1911, the base-year of the period, the weighted average price index-number showed an increase of 68.2 per cent. for 1924. From 1901 to 1912 inclusive, the index-number for Perth was higher than for any other capital city, except for the year 1909. From 1913 to 1920 the figure for Sydney was the highest, and for 1921, 1922, 1923, and 1924 the indexnumber for Hobart was higher than for any other capital city.

²⁹ 6. Retail Prices, Thirty Towns, 1920 to 1924.—The following tables give index-numbers representing the variations in the cost of food and groceries (46 commodities), in 30 of the more important towns in Australia at yearly, quarterly, and monthly periods for the years specified. In addition, indexnumbers are given showing for the years specified the quarterly and yearly variations in house rents and in the combined cost of food, groceries, and housing. As explained on pp. 31 and 32 of Labour Report No. 6, these are now computed to the same base as the index-numbers relating to the six capital cities, which go back to the year 1901.

Retail Price Index-Numbers 30 Towns, 1923 to 1924 : Weighted Average of Six Capital Citics in 1921 as Base* (= 1,000).

| | | | N.S.WINDEX-NUMBERS. | | | | | | VICTORIA,INDEX-NUMBERS. | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| | | Sydney. | Newcastle. | Broken Hill. | Goulburn. | Bathurst. | Weighted Average, N.S.W. | Melbourate. | Ballarat. | Bendigo. | Geelong. | Warrnam- bool. | Weighted Average, Victoria. | |
| | | | | FOOD A | ND GR | Douries | 40 Ce | MMODIT | TES. | | | | | |
| | 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 | 2,148 1,898 1,703 1,820 1,732 | 2,146 1,936 1,706 1,838 1,749 | 2,390 2,128 1,770 1,909 1,954 | 2,185 1,921 1,691 1,855 1,767 | 2,113 1,884 1,032 1,766 1,647 | 2,158 1,911 1,705 1,826 1,739 | 2,056 1,901 1,644 1,802 1,664 | 2,080 1,912 1,654 1,793 1,704 | 2,009 1,880 1,649 1,796 1,729 | 1,905 1,932 1,642 1,757 1,673 | 2,035 1,920 1,691 1,750 1,723 | 2,052 1,902 1,044 1,800 1,667 | |
| | 1923 1st Qtr. 2nd ., 3rd ., 4th | 1,708 1,826 1,909 1.838 | 1.725 1,808 1,914 1,903 | $\begin{array}{r} 1.851 \\ 1.976 \\ 2.036 \\ 2.082 \end{array}$ | 1,734 1,842 1,959 1,883 | 1,648 1,744 1,873 1,800 | 1,713 1,828 1,914 1,849 | 1,037 1,827 1,950 1,796 | 1,638 1,778 1,919 1,837 | 1,654 1,804 1,908 1,816 | 1,623 1,748 1.859 1,799 | 1,581 1,745 1,863 1,810 | 1,637 1,820 1,943 1,798 | |
| | 1924 let Qtr. 2nd p 3rd p 4th p | 1,782 1,735 1,695 1,715 | 1,810 1,756 1,717 1,705 | 2,017 1,927 1,935 1,938 | 1,810 1,801 1,718 1,731 | 1,705 1,662 1,618 1,601 | 1,791 1,742 1,702 1,719 | 1,728 1,694 1,662 1,653 | 1,753 1,715 1,676 1,072 | 1,758 1,756 1,720 1, 683 | 1,705 1,683 1,687 1 ,616 | 1,762 1,744 1,711 1,675 | 1,729 1,607 1,666 1,654 | |
| | 1924 January J Fobruary Maroh April May May June July August September October November December | 1,808 1,774 2,765 1,739 1,757 1,709 1,711 1,671 1,683 1,735 1,720 | $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{1,854}\\ \textbf{1,807}\\ \textbf{1,798}\\ \textbf{1,752}\\ \textbf{1,771}\\ \textbf{1,744}\\ \textbf{1,724}\\ \textbf{1,719}\\ \textbf{1,714}\\ \textbf{1,712}\\ \textbf{1,708}\\ \textbf{1,696} \end{array}$ | 2,084 2,008 1,920 1,939 1,923 1,934 1,945 1,926 1,924 1,944 1,947 | 1,839 1,803 1,815 1,795 1,814 1,794 1,726 1,715 1,715 1,713 1,719 1,731 1,742 | $1,715 \\ 1,700 \\ 1,600 \\ 1,660 \\ 1,684 \\ 1,635 \\ 1,644 \\ 1,617 \\ 1,594 \\ 1,608 \\ 1,598 \\ 1,697 \\ 1,69$ | $\begin{array}{c} 1,817\\ 1,783\\ 1,774\\ 1,775\\ 1,763\\ 1,718\\ 1,717\\ 1,710\\ 1,681\\ 1,692\\ 1,737\\ 1,728\end{array}$ | 1,743 1,734 1,707 1,704 1,670 1,670 1,656 1,652 1,646 1,635 1,678 | $\begin{array}{c} 1,766\\ 1,749\\ 3,744\\ 1,734\\ 1,734\\ 1,734\\ 1,691\\ 1,663\\ 1,674\\ 1,669\\ 1,676\\ 1,676\\ 1,672\end{array}$ | 1,763 1,751 1,760 1,770 1,770 1,750 1,753 1,710 1,696 1,695 1,678 1,675 | $\begin{array}{c} 1,723\\ 1,712\\ 1,681\\ 1,663\\ 1,604\\ 1,672\\ 1,631\\ 1,601\\ 1,681\\ 1,621\\ 1,624\\ 1,624\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 1,758\\ 1,762\\ 1,767\\ 1,742\\ 1,761\\ 1,728\\ 1,721\\ 1,672\\ 1,717\\ 1,677\\ 1,676\\ 1,672\end{array}$ | 1,744 1,734 1,706 1,705 1,680 1,683 1,660 1,683 1,660 1,686 1,648 1,637 1,637 | |
| | | | | | Hou | 51N0-(| АБІ НО | DUSES). | | | | | · | |
| • | 1020 1921 1922 1923 1924 | 1,415 1,474 1,535 1,517 1, 687 | 1,221 1,286 1,315 1,349 1,406 | 731 731 731 750 804 | 1,337 1,369 1,398 1,551 1,665 | 901 933 049 995 1,076 | 1,863 1,419 1,474 1,566 1,636 | 1,405 1,502 1,697 1,072 1,729 | 810 914 979 1,075 1,9 8 3 | 850 935 1,002 1,015 1,040 | 1,090 1,155 1,232 1,330 1,347 | 1,073 1,151 1,207 1,301 1,323 | 1,310 1,405 1,494 1,610 1,661 | |
| | 1923 1et Qtr. 2nd 8rd 4th | 1.585 1.627 1.628 1.629 | 1,351 1,348 1,348 1,347 | 731 766 751 752 | 1,507 1,620 1,538 1,538 | 991 991 998 998 | 1,638 1,576 1,575 1,577 | 1,640 1,671 1,680 1,698 | 1,007 1,074 1,079 1,079 | 1,057 1,070 1,066 1,066 | 1,324 1,332 1,332 1,332 | 1,264 1,304 1,314 1,324 | , 1,580 1,610 1,617 1,633 | |
| | 1924 1st Qtr. 2nd ,, 3rd ,, 4th ,, | 1,653 1,686 1,099 1,711 | 1,402 1,402 1,406 1,434 | 785 705 814 823 | 1,634 1,671 1,676 1,676 | 998 1,104 1,100 1,100 | 1,604 1,635 1,046 1,058 | 1,702 1,725 1,730 1,748 | 1,110 1,118 1,107 1,009 | 1,044 1,041 1,044 1,033 | 1,344 1,314 1,354 1,345 | 1,324 1,320 1,322 1,321 | 1,639 1,658 1,671 1,678 | |
| | | - - | | | '00 D , G | ROCERI | es, and | Housn | 9G. | | | | | |
| | 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 | 1.847 1,724 1.634 1,737 1,714 | 1,760 1,669 1,645 1,637 1,608 | 1,712 1,554 1,846 1,480 1,482 | 1,836 1,694 1,571 1,730 1,725 | 1,615 1,493 1,352 1,449 1,412 | 1,831 1,709 1,610 1,719 1,696 | 1,788 1,737 1,625 1,749 1,7 63 | 1,558 1,502 1,376 1,498 1,498 | 1,535 1,492 1,384 1,495 1,446 | 1,623 1,612 1,474 1,582 1,539 | 1,640 1,604 1,483 1,566 1,559 | 1,747 1,698 1,683 1,722 1,6 76 | |
| | 1923 let Qtr. 2nd 3rd . 4th | 1.658 1.744 1.793 1,752 | $1,571 \\ 1.619 \\ 1.682 \\ 1.675$ | 1,391 1,479 1,537 1,535 | 1,641 1,751 1,786 1,741 | 1,378 1,435 1,514 1,470 | 1,041 1,724 1,775 1,737 | 1,638 1,763 1,830 1,756 | 1,403 1,488 1,574 1,625 | 1,409 1,502 1,562 1,608 | 1,500 1,577 1,642 1,607 | 1,460 1,564 3,638 2,610 | 1,614 1,734 1,809 1,731 | |
| | 1924 1st Qir. 2nd ,, 3rd ,, 4th ,, | 1,729 1,715 1,600 1,713 | 1,648 1,611 1,589 1,586 | 1,511 1,462 1,475 1,480 | 1,748 1,748 1,701 1,708 | 1,414 1,433 1,405 1,895 | 1,714 1,608 1,679 1,694 | 1,717 1,707 1,694 1,692 | 1,489 1,470 1,442 1,436 | 1,464 1,462 1,442 1,416 | 1,557 1,844 1,550 11,505 | 1,582 1,573 1,551 1,529 | 1,692 1,681 1,668 1,664 | |

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* See explanatory note at head of page 18.

Retail Price Index-Numbers 30 Towns 1920 to 1924 : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in 1921 as Base* (= 1,000)---continued.

| | 0 | vernsl. | AND | NDEX-N | UMBER9 | | Sour | II AUSI | RAUL- | -TSDEX | -NUMBI | RS. |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | lirisbaue. | Toowoomha. | ltockhamp- ton. | Charters Towers. | Warwick. | Weighted Average, Queensland, | Adelaide. | Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo. | Port Pirie. | Mt. Gambier | l'eter- borough. | Weighted Average, S.A. |
| | | | 1001) | AND GR | OCERIE. | s (46 C | ояморі | PIES) | | | | |
| 1020 1021 1022 . 1023 1924 | 2.052 1,812 1,608 1,693 1,693 | 1.099 1,714 1.539 1,679 1,690 | 2,007 1,834 1,616 1 7,38 1,679 | 2,133 1,901 1,608 1,825 1,841 | 2,045 1,817 1 579 1 677 1,625 | 2,055 1,812 1.600 1,700 1,686 | 2,132 1,000 1,723 1,823 1,823 | 2,089 1.013 1.710 1.777 1,756 | 2,090 1,960 1,725 1,800 1,810 | 1.076 1,882 1,026 1.714 1 ,692 | 2,092 1,954 1 762 1,801 1,817 | 2,123 1,009 1,726 1,819 1,790 |
| 1923 1st Qtr. 2nd ,. 8rd 4th ,. | 1,615 1,677 1.720 1,739 | 1 567 1,640 1,736 1,772 | 1,052 1,701 1,768 1,800 | $\substack{1,731\\1.798\\1,860\\1,900}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 1,591 \\ 1.651 \\ 1,713 \\ 1.754 \end{array}$ | 1,619 1,680 1.730 1.772 | 1,704 1,817 1,893 1,848 | 1,718 1,798 1,801 1,791 | 1,688 1,801 1,865 1,882 | 1,629 1,753 1,833 1,800 | 1.756 1.836 1,803 1,810 | 1,703 1,842 1,886 1,846 |
| 1924 1st Qtr. 2nd 3rd 4tb | $\begin{array}{c} 1.757 \\ 1.680 \\ 1.672 \\ 1.651 \end{array}$ | 1,689 1,589 1,578 1,546 | 1,7.35 1,678 1,659 1,646 | 1,911 1,825 1.822 1,805 | $\substack{1,713\\1.608\\1,595\\1,581}$ | 1,754 1,676 1,607 1,646 | 1,815 1,826 1,760 1,734 | $\substack{1,775\\1,781\\1,738\\1,732}$ | $\substack{1,820\\1,822\\1,822\\1,822\\1,812}$ | 1,691 1,693 1,700 1,683 | $1,758 \\ 1,708 \\ 1,844 \\ 1,872$ | 1,838 1,822 1,701 1,737 |
| 3024 January February March Aprit June July August September December December | 1,811 1,740 1,721 1,673 1,673 1,673 1,673 1,673 1,681 1,673 1,647 1,682 | $1,764 \\ 1,658 \\ 1,645 \\ 1,586 \\ 1,5605 \\ 1,578 \\ 1,578 \\ 1,578 \\ 1,575 \\ 1,578 \\ 1,575 \\ 1,536 \\ 1,527 \\ 1,5$ | 1,736 1.733 1,754 1,674 1,675 1,675 1,660 1,600 1,603 1,669 1,654 1,619 | 1,948 1,950 1,834 1,816 1,830 1,823 1,832 1,832 1,832 1,812 1,814 1,809 1,793 | $\begin{array}{c} 1.778\\ 1.699\\ 1.603\\ 1.610\\ 1.623\\ 1.590\\ 1.590\\ 1.595\\ 1.601\\ 1.592\\ 1.681\\ 1.572 \end{array}$ | 1,805 1,740 1,719 1,670 1,670 1,667 1,650 1,650 1,675 1,608 1,613 1,627 | $\begin{array}{c} 1,847\\ 1,840\\ 1,842\\ 1,823\\ 1,823\\ 1,823\\ 1,823\\ 1,811\\ 1,736\\ 1,734\\ 1,724\\ 1,732\\ 1,745\end{array}$ | 1,763 1,778 1,778 1,778 1,761 1,761 1,742 1,710 1,720 1,722 1,723 1,753 | 1,820 1,825 1,813 1,813 1,834 1,834 1,834 1,834 1,834 1,834 1,834 1,834 1,834 1,834 1,842 1,842 1,842 1,820 | 1,717 1,671 1,686 1,689 1,700 1,691 1,004 1,706 1,701 1,689 1,687 1,673 | 1,740 1,734 1,797 1,774 1,778 1,819 1,839 1,839 1,839 1,839 1,839 1,839 1,854 1,864 | 1,840 1,839 1,836 1,817 1,830 1,808 1,740 1,735 1,728 1,749 |
| | | | | Rovs | ING (ÅI | т ног | ses). | | | | | |
| 1920 1921 1922 1928 1924 | 1,061 1,079 1,200 1,247 1,242 | 069 1,028 997 1,163 1,178 | 826 835 870 883 921 | 731 736 758 771 802 | 884 966 954 1.057 1,156 | 995 937 1,107 1,188 1,191 | 1,216 1,289 1,360 1,450 1,651 | 820 847 850 895 848 | 961 902 936 945 962 | 740 763 759 759 750 781 | 911 937 924 972 1,167 | 1,163 1,225 1,287 1,304 1,487 |
| 1923 1st Qtr. 2nd ,, 3rd ,, 4th ,, | 1,247 1,247 1,247 1,249 | 1,172 1,167 1,167 1,168 | 874 874 893 893 | 767 767 767 783 | 1,059 1,058 1,056 1,056 1,056 | 1,187 1,187 1,188 1,188 1,190 | 1,427 1,450 1,458 1,458 | 891 892 882 876 | 940 941 941 958 | 759 769 750 759 | 029 950 1,004 1,004 | 1,385 1,409 1,402 1,402 |
| 1924 1st Qtr 2nd ,. 3rd ., 4th ,, | $1.241 \\ 1,242 \\ 1,241 \\ 1,243 \\ 1,24$ | 1.166 1,183 1,149 1.213 | 915 920 920 927 | 803 803 806 798 | 1,056 1,180 1,213 1,213 | 1,187 1,192 1,180 1,196 | 1,468 1,575 1,578 1,585 | 848 853 846 845 | 942 950 976 980 | 766 780 770 803 | 1,107 1,170 1,193 1,200 | 1,410 1,608 1,511 1,518 |
| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | - | F | '00.D, G | ROCERI | ES AND | Housin | G. | | | | |
| 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 | 1,645 1,511 1,442 1,510 1,506 | 1,676 1,482 1,317 1,409 1,427 | 1,557 1,424 1,313 1,387 1,368 | 1,657 1,423 1,812 1,802 1,414 | 1,668 1,468 1,822 1,422 1,422 1,436 | 1,619 1,486 1,403 1,490 1,483 | 1,756 1,653 1,874 1,670 1,693 | 1,671 1,476 1,859 1,411 1,393 | 1,680 1,525 1,401 1,454 1,467 | 1,408 1,418 1,270 1,345 1,316 | 1,607 1,536 1,418 1,460 1,650 | 1,728 1,628 1,643 1,647 1,665 |
| 1923 1st Qtr. 2nd " 3rd " 4th " | 1,464 1,600 1,525 1,549 | 1,405 1,446 1,502 1,524 | 1,332 1,361 1,408 1,445 | 1,235 1,375 1,411 1,446 | 1,373 1,406 1,443 1,467 | 1,441 1,477 1,607 1,533 | 1,500 1,686 1,714 1,688 | 1,378 1,426 1,423 1,415 | 1,381 1,447 1,486 1,502 | 1,271 1,344 1,392 1,372 | 1,416 1,471 1,475 1,479 | 1,571 1,664 1,687 1,664 |
| 1924 1st Qtr. 2nd 3rd 4th | 1,545 1,500 1,495 1,483 | 1,474 1,422 1,402 1,410 | 1,398 1,367 1,355 1,351 | 1,455 1,405 1,405 1,392 | 1,448 1,432 1,438 1,430 |),521 1,477 1,471 1,461 | 1,690 1,723 1,685 1,673 | 1,304 1,400 1,372 1,367 | 1,459 1,464 1,475 1,470 | 1,311 1,318 1,320 1,321 | 1,400 1,537 1,570 1,606 | 1,662 1,693 1,659 1,647 |

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* See note at head of page 18

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Retail Price Index-Numbers 30 Towns 1920 to 1924 : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities in 1911 as Base† (= 1,000)—continued.

| | WES | IBRN AU | DSTRALI | л—Тид | ex-Nue | IBERS. | | Таяма | NIA-IN | DBX-NG | JMBRAS. | | alla 19 | age |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| | Perth. | Kalgoorlle. | Northam. | Bunbury. | Geraldton. | Weighted Average, W.A. | Ho bart. | Launceston. | Burnie.* | Devenport.* | Queenstown. | Weighted Average, Tasmania, | Weizhted Ave 6 Capital Tow | Weighted Ave 30 Towns, Australia. |
| | | <u> </u> | | Fo | OD AND | GROCE | ites (46 | Сомы | DITIES) | • • • • • | <u></u> | | | |
| 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 | 2,050 1,905 1,776 1,828 1,891 | 2,302 2,207 1,995 2,101 2,1 22 | 1,962 1,916 | 2,055 2,029 1,856 1.840 1,940 | 2,071 2,017 1,840 1,918 1,983 | 2,103 2,042 1,828 1,861 1,918 | 2,162 2,025 1,794 1,863 1,849 | 2,108 1,934 1,709 1,820 1,836 | 1,883 1,879 | 1,855 1,864 | 2,149 2,058 1,842 1,953 2,016 | 2,146 2,000 1,774 1,854 1,853 | 2,101 1,902 1,684 1,805 1,732 | 2,104 1,911 1,688 1,808 1,738 |
| 1923 1st Qtr. 2nd , 3rd ,, 4tb ,, | 1,737 1,920 1,865 1,788 | 1,996 2,178 2,140 2,081 | 1,858 2,003 2,025 1,961 | 1,749 1,014 1,887 1,809 | 1.874 1,949 1,938 1,912 | 1,770 1,950 1,899 1,825 | 2,774 1,859 1,912 1,904 | 1,707 1,776 1,896 1,898 | 1,717 1,862 1,968 1,084 | 1,731 1,843 1,931 1,915 | 1,828 1,909 2,017 2,056 | 2,753 1,837 1,915 1,911 | 1,680 1,823 1,901 1,816 | 7,684 1,822 1,901 1,825 |
| 1024 1st Qtr 2nd ,, 3rd ,, 4th ,, | 1,874 1,802 1,902 1,805 | 2,120 2,139 2,115 2,115 2,115 | $1,944 \\ 1,993 \\ 1,908 \\ 1,821$ | 1 860 1,969 1,988 1,943 | 1.930 1,942 2,042 2,042 2,027 | $1,001 \\ 1,922 \\ 1,030 \\ 1,920$ | 1,895 J,861 1,843 1,798 | 1,864 1,854 1,830 1,796 | 1,940 1,917 1,885 1,772 | 1,862 1,872 1,891 1,829 | 2,031 2,001 2,019 2,015 | 1,891 1,867 1,850 1,806 | 1,778 1,740 1,706 1,705 | 1,783 1,746 1,714 1,709 |
| 1924. January March April June June June Soptember October No vembor December | 1,848 1,876 1,896 1,855 1,891 1,920 1,985 1,916 1,904 1,802 1,889 | 2,073 2,125 2,161 2,135 2,147 2,135 2,147 2,135 2,115 2,122 2,109 2,007 2,136 2,112 | 1,9181,9331,9801,9641,9752,0261,9661,9341,8431,7921,8241,848 | 1,821 1,837 1,922 1,923 1,990 2,010 1,995 1,999 1,971 1,975 1,031 1,921 | $\begin{array}{c} 1,931\\ 1,935\\ 1,924\\ 1,895\\ 1,927\\ 2,003\\ 1,996\\ 2,068\\ 2,061\\ 2,069\\ 2,024\\ 1,999\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 1,874\\ 1,003\\ 1,928\\ 1,880\\ 1,922\\ 1,956\\ 1,915\\ 1,943\\ 1,931\\ 1,927\\ 1,920\\ 1,914\\ \end{array}$ | 1,896 1,802 1,806 1,879 1,846 1,841 1,841 1,841 1,841 1,841 1,831 1,784 1,779 | $\begin{array}{c} 1,870\\ 1,860\\ 1,863\\ 1,874\\ 1,874\\ 1,874\\ 1,822\\ 1,837\\ 1,831\\ 1,815\\ 1,795\\ 1,776\\ \end{array}$ | 1,950 1,917 1,053 1,936 1,031 1,883 1,396 1,005 1,855 1,779 1,770 1,769 | 1,873 1,862 1,851 1,872 1,878 1,866 1,870 1,913 1,889 1,841 1,834 1,812 | 2,061 2,034 1,999 1,985 2,013 2,006 1,999 2,029 2,029 2,027 2,025 2,011 2,009 | 1,805 1,887 1,890 1,862 1,853 1,845 1,853 1,845 1,857 1,848 1,832 1,797 1,788 | 1,796 1,775 1,762 1,761 1,753 1,725 1,725 1,725 1,725 1,705 1,692 1,693 1,706 1,716 | 1,802 1,780 1,769 1,746 1,759 1,732 1,728 1,728 1,713 1,700 1,700 1,710 4,718 |
| | | | | | House | IG (ALL | House | s). | | | | | | |
| 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 | 996 1,055 1,092 1,124 1,1 34 | 851 843 826 811 786 | 834 9 35 | 619 710 826 877 904 | 976 992 926 978 987 | 044 992 1,020 1,077 1,088 | 1,373 1,440 1,445 1,602 1,665 | 1,096 1,149 1,296 1,395 1,420 | 1,201 7,377 | 1,382 1,416 | 619 622 622 623 623 | 1,143 1,198 1,246 1,487 1,537 | 1,333 1,404 1,480 1,651 1,609 | 1,251 1,317 1,385 1,489 1,544 |
| 1923 1st. Qtr. 2nd ,, 3rd ,, 4th ,, | 1,119 1,120 1,122 1,126 | 806 803 816 817 | 823 838 838 838 | 895 897 897 900 | 921 1,013 988 988 | 1,072 1,082 1,076 1,080 | 1,520 1,615 1,628 1,646 | 1,393 1,396 1,395 1,395 | 1,299 1,299 1,299 1,308 | 1,353 1,375 1,400 1,400 | 622 622 622 622 | 1,430 1,495 1,504 1,515 | 1,619 1,651 1,659 1,568 | 1,462 1,490 1,496 1,503 |
| 1924 1st Qtr. 2nd ., 3rd ., 4th ,, | 1,127 1,128 1,127 1,152 | 800 779 779 787 | 956 977 1,021 1,026 | 886 900 909 909 | 088 988 089 085 | 1,081 1,081 1,081 1,081 1,102 | 1,663 1,663 1,657 1,677 | 1,417 1,421 1,422 1,422 | 1,361 1,369 1,384 1,393 | 1,402 1,410 1,434 1,400 | 622 623 622 622 | 1,584 1,585 1,583 1,545 | 1,577 1,610 1,619 1,630 | 1,516 1,544 1,553 1,562 |
| | | | | | Food, (| ROCERI | E 5, AND | Housi | NG. | | | | | |
| 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 | 1,617 1,600 1,495 1,538 1,538 | 1,706 1,647 1,515 1,571 1,571 | 1,409 1,538 | 1,465 1,487 1,432 1,452 1,514 | 1,621 1,596 1,465 1,532 1,575 | 1,627 1,611 1,496 1,539 1,576 | 1,837 1,785 1,651 1,756 1,773 | 1,692 1,612 1,539 1,645 1,665 | 1,644 1,673 | 1,601 1,680 | 1,521 1,468 1,341 1,406 1,444 | 1,734 1,671 1,557 1,704 1,723 | 1,785 1,697 1,600 1,760 1,682 | 1,753 1,668 1,664 1,617 1,658 |
| 1923 1st Qtr. 2nd " 3rd " 4th " | 1,483 1,595 1,559 1,616 | 1,507 1,613 1,601 1,562 | 1,433 1,524 1,537 1,500 | 1,898 1,496 1,480 1,435 | 1,482 1,564 1,548 1,533 | 1,483 1,593 1,561 1,519 | 1,670 1,759 1,796 1,798 | 1,578 1,620 1,690 1,691 | 1,545 1,631 1,693 1,706 | 1,576 1,650 1,713 1,703 | 1,332 1,360 1,444 1,467 | 1,623 1,607 1,746 1,748 | 1,614 1,711 1,760 1,713 | 1,593 1,686 1,735 1,693 |
| 1924 1st Qir. 2ad ,, 3rd ,, 4th ,, | 1,507 1,578 1,584 1,590 | 1,577 1,580 1,566 1,569 | 1,538 1,576 1,543 1,404 | 1,460 1,534 1,545 1,518 | 1,543 1,550 1,609 1,599 | $1,564 \\ 1,576 \\ 1,581 \\ 1,584 $ | 1,800 1,779 1,766 1,749 | 1,681 1,676 1,602 1,642 | 1,702 1,692 1,680 1,617 | 1,673 1,686 1,703 1,657 | 1,452 1,434 1,445 1,443 | 1,744 1,730 1,720 1,698 | 1,695 1,686 1,670 1,674 | 1,673 1,663 1,648 1,649 |

• The Towns of Midland Junction (W.A.). Zechan (Tas.), and Beaconsfield (Tas.), were replaced in 1928 by Northam (W.A.), Burnie (Tas.), and Devonport (Tas.). † See note at head of page 18.

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RETAIL PRICES .- FOOD, GROCEBIES, AND RENT.

In so far as they relate to the capital cities the index-numbers in these tables are comparable in every respect with those given on page 18 for the respective groups, and where they relate to the same period are identical in both tables.

The index-numbers in the separate parts of the table cannot be directly compared with one another in order to show the relative cost of (say) housing and food and groceries, since the weighted average cost in 1911 is in each case made equal to 1,000.

The last columns in each of the tables above refer to the weighted average for the 30 towns. The method of computing these weighted average indexnumbers is explained in Report No. 1, page 35. The population weights used in the computations for 1923 and subsequent years were as follows :---

| N.8.W | | ν6. | | Qʻlanq | | 5.8 | | W,A | | 3'as. | |
|---|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|---------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 9\ovën. | Weight. | 1 Town | Weight. | Town. | Weight. | Тожи | Wefght. | Town | Weight. | Town | Weight. |
| Sydney Newcastle Broken Hill Goulbarn Isathúrst | 899 84 26 13 0 | Melbourne Ballarat Beadigo Geelong W'nambo } | 768 36 30 32 8 | Brisbane Twoomba Rocklam'n Chris Twrs Warwick | 210 21 24 9 6 | AdeLide Kadina.otc 14. Pirie Mt Gamb'ı Peterbør'gh | 255 13 10 4 2 | Perili, etc. Kaleflic,etc Norllam Bunbury Geraldton | 155 19 4 4 | Hobart Launceston Burinlé Devonport Quécust wn | 60 24 8 5 3 |

Population Weights Used for Different Towns.

The weights used are based on the 1921 Census populations, and represent the actual populations at that date to the nearest 1,000.

7. Relative Retail Prices, 30 Towns, with Houses of Various Sizes, 1924.—(i.) General.—The figures in the next table represent the relative indexnumbers for 1924 for the 30 towns in respect of which particulars are regularly collected, and show the different results obtained by taking into account houses of various sizes. These index-numbers are comparable in all respects. The first column gives the relative expenditure on groceries and food ; the second, third, fourth, and fifth columns show expenditure on housing for houses of four, five, and six rooms, and for all houses respectively ; while the remaining columns relate to food and groceries combined with housing. 1921.—Relative Index-Numbers, 30 Towns, Food and Groceries and Housing compared with Weighted Average Expenditure on Food, Groceries, and Rent (all Houses) in the Six Capital Cities in 1911 as Base (= 1,000).

| | | Food | | Jiov | BING. | | F | IOD, GRO RENT | Ceilles: cor⊶ | AM D |
|--------------------------------------|--------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Town. | | ana Grocer- je9. | Four- roomed Houses. | Five- roomed Houses, | Six- roomed Houses. | All Houses, | Four- roomed Houses | Five- roomed Houses. | Six- roomed Houses, | Ail Houtes |
| Nar Same With | |) | | | ļ – | | | 1 | 1 | ŀ |
| Svdpey | | 1.620 | 532 | 655 | 786 | 694 | 1,552 | 1,675 | 1,808 | 3,734 |
| Newcastle | | 1,030 | 441 | 590 | 741 | 578 | 1,471 | 1,620 | 1,771 | 1,605 |
| Broken HUI* | ٠. | 1,151 | 312 | , 373 | 446 | 331 | 1,463 | 1,524 | 1,597 | 1,482 |
| Rathurst | •• | 1,041 | 1 005 | 1 418 | 514 | 684 | 1,283 | 1.388 | 1.484 | E 412 |
| Weighted Average | •• | 1.024 | 617 | 640 | 1 771 | 672 | 1.541 | 1.664 | 1.795 | 1.696 |
| | ••• | , | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | - |
| VICTORIA Melhaurne | | 000 | 101 | 694 | 010 | | 1 103 | 1 824 | 1 807 | 1 70 4 |
| Ballarat | | 1 1001 | 1 985 | 400 | 400 | 455 | 1,238 | 1.404 | 1.494 | 1.459 |
| Bendigo | | 1.018 | 307 | 390 | 511 | 428 | 1,325 | 1,408 | 1,629 | 1,446 |
| Geelong. | • • | 985 | 378 | H04 | 648 | 564 | 1,363 | 1,489 | 1,633 | 1,589 |
| Warmambool, | ٠. | 1,015 | 383 | 511 | 622 | 544 | 1,398 | 1,526 | 1,637 | 1,559 |
| Weighted Average | | 994 | 471 | 608 | 782 | 682. | 1,465 | 1,602 | 1,776 | 1,876 |
| QUEENSLAND | | ľ | | | | İ. | 1 | | - | |
| Brishane | ۰. | 996 | 381. | ∲ 451- | 572 | 510 | 1,327 | 1,447 | 1,568 | 1,500 |
| Toowoomba . | • | 943 | 293 | 897 | 499 | 484 | 1,236 | 1,340 | 1,442 | 1,427 |
| Charters Toward | ٠. | 1080 | 233 | 303 | 087 | 379 | 1,227 | 1 490 | 1,570 | 1,308 |
| Warwick | ••• | 957 | 338 | 411 | 481 | 479 | 1,295 | 1,308 | 1,438 | 1,430 |
| Weighted Average | • | 993 | 318 | 430 | 544 | 400 | 1,311 | 1,423 | 1,537 | 1,483 |
| SOUTH A USTRALIA- | | ł | | | l | | | | 1 | ļ |
| Adolaido | ۰. | 1,055 | 485 | 612 | 758 | 638 | 1,540 | 1,667 | 1,813 | 1,693 |
| Kadlma, etc. | ٠ | 1,035 | 267 | 359 | 427 | 848 | 1,302 | 1,394 | 1,462 | 1,385 |
| Port Pirie ⁺ | • • | 1,072 | 332 | 413 | 474 | 395 | 1,404 | 1,485 | 1,546 | 1,467 |
| Mt. Gambler | ٠. | 997 | 232 | 313 | 403 | 321 | 1,229 | 1,310 | 1,400 | 1,318 |
| resetuorougn | • | 1,010 | | 400 | | #80 | 1,400 | 1,000 | 1,010 | 1,000 |
| Weighted Average | •• | 1,054 | 466 | 589 | 728 | - # 11 | 1,520 | 1,643 | 1,782 | 1,665 |
| WESTERN AUSTRALIA- | | 1 | ļ | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Pertit, etc. | •• | 1,114 | 404 | 496 | 585 | 466 | 1,518 | 1,610 | 1,699 | 1,550 |
| Northum | · · | 1,250 | 329 | 394 | 401 | 323 | 1,579 | 1,044 | 1,711 | 1,578 |
| Bunbury | | 1,129 | 409 | . 023 | 602 | 9.71 | 1,538 | 1,052 | 1 748 | 1 1 514 |
| Geraldton | | 1,169 | 440 | 520 | 658 | 406 | 1,609 | 1,680 | 1,827 | 1,575 |
| Weighted Average | | 1,130 | 397 | 486 | 576 | 446 | 1,527 | 1,016 | 1,706 | 1,576 |
| TASMANN- | | | ŀ | Ĩ | 1. | Í | · | | 1 | • |
| Hobart | • • | 1.089 | 488 | 655 | 817 | 684 | 1.577 | 1.744 | 1.906 | 1.773 |
| Launceston | | 1,081 | 387 | 553 | 699 | 584 | 1,408 | 1,634 | 1.780 | ₿ 1.605 |
| Burnie | | 1,107 | 434 | 577 | 707 | 566 | 1,541 | 1,684 | 1,814 | 1,673 |
| Devonport | - • | 1,098 | 443 | 557 | 679 | 582 | 1,541 | 1,655 | 1,777 | 1,680 |
| Ancoustown | •• | 1,188 | 263 | 342 | 368 | 256 | 1,451 | 1,530 | 1,556 | 1,444 |
| Weighted Average | •• | 1,092 | .147 | 607 | 757 | 631 | 1,539 | 1,699 | 1,849 | 3,723 |
| Weighted Average, | 6 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | F |
| Capital Citles | •• | 1,020 | 436 | 614 | 761 | 662 | 1,506 | 1,634 | 1,781 | 1,682 |
| Welghted Average Towns, Australia | 30 | 1,024 | 1 466 | 592 | 734 | 634 | 1,490 | 1,618 | F,759 | 1,658 |

* See Remarks on page 27 with reference to house rents.

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The rent for all houses is obtained separately for each of the 30 towns by weighting the rent paid for each class of house by the number of houses in each class in each town. When houses of one particular size only are included, different results are obtained.

The figures in the last four columns give expenditure on food and groceries combined with expenditure on rent, for each of the three classes of houses and also for all houses.

Expenditure in each town for food, groceries, and housing was multiplied by a number representing the population of the town, and a weighted result for all towns was thus computed. The weights used are given on page 24 The relative expenditure in each town for (a) food and groceries, (b) housing, and (c) food, groceries, and housing combined, is shown, the base being the weighted average expenditure in the six capital cities for 1911 = 1,000. Therefore, in each horizontal line the sum of the index-number for food and groceries and that for rent is equal to the index-number for food, groceries, and housing combined, taking the corresponding house-rent group. The items in the table are comparable in all respects, and in addition show the proportionate cost of food and groceries and of housing. For example, taking the last line in the table, the weighted average expenditure for all the towns on food, groceries, and housing being £1,658, the expenditure on food and groceries alone is £1,024 (1st column), and the average rental £634 (5th column), the sum of the two latter amounts being £1,658. Again, if it Le desired to ascertain the relative expenditure for food and groceries and rent of four-roomed houses, it will be found that the figures are £1,024 and £466, which, together, amount to £1,490 (6th column). In addition to showing the relative cost of food and groceries and house rent (for different classes of houses) in each town individually, the table also furnishes comparisons as to the relative cost of these items as between the several towns. Thus, taking food and groceries only (1st column), commodities which would cost £1,020 in Sydney can be purchased for £992 in Melbourne, or £1,055 in Adelaide. Again, taking the combined expenditure on food, groceries, and house rent for houses of five rooms (7th column), an expenditure of £1,624 in Melbourne is equivalent to £1,675 in Sydney, £1,667 in Adelaide, £1,644 in Kalgoorlie, or £1,689 in . Geraldton.

The index-numbers are reversible, and may be used for comparisons between any of the towns included. Thus, if the average weekly rental of five-roomed houses in Melbourne is 24s. Od. and the average rental of similar houses in Bendigo is required, the rental in Melbourne must be multiplied by the index-number for five-roomed houses in Bendigo and divided by the index-number for Melbourne (3rd column); 24s. Od. $\times \frac{390}{632} = 14s. 9d.$

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(ii.) Food and Groceries.—The weighted average of the five towns was below the weighted average for all towns for 1923 in Victoria and Queensland, and above it in the other States. The most expensive towns are Kalgoorlie, in Western Australia, and Queenstown in Tasmania; Kalgoorlie being 22.1 per cent., and Queenstown 16.0 per cent. above the weighted average for all towns.

(iii.) Housing.—For four-roomed houses, Sydney, Melbourne, and Hobart are the most expensive towns. For five-roomed houses, Hobart, Sydney, and Melbourne are dearest, while six-roomed houses are dearest in Hobart, Melbourne, and Sydney. Taking all houses, Melbourne, Sydney, and Hobart are the most expensive, while Queenstown and Broken Hill are the cheapest towns.

For some time after the outbreak of war a number of houses in Broken Hill and Port Pirie were occupied at purely nominal or reduced rentals by families in which the wage-earner was out of employment, and it was not until the latter half of 1916 that normal conditions were resumed. In 1919, 1920, and 1921 industrial troubles in Broken Hill brought about similar conditions to those in 1914–15. For some years, therefore, the average rents in these towns have been computed in accordance with special investigations quarterly.

(iv.) Food and Groceries and Housing combined.—The last column in the foregoing table shows the relative cost of commodities and housing accommodation for all houses in each town during 1923. The average cost was greatest in Hobart, followed by Sydney and Melbourne. The indexnumber for Hobart was 6.9 per cent., Sydney 3.4 per cent., and Melbourne 2.7 per cent. above the weighted average cost for all towns. The cost was least in Mt. Gambier.

8. Retail Price Index-Numbers in Terms of Currency.—In the next table the average cost for the six capital eities in the year 1911 has been taken as base = 20s. The figures measure the variations in the cost of the regimen referred to on page 15 from year to year in each city separately (in the vertical lines), and the relative cost in the several cities in each year (in the horizontal lines). Thus, 20s. 7d. in Sydney in 1911 was equivalent to 18s 4d. in Brisbane, or 19s. 1d. in Hobart, while 33s. 11d. in Melbourne for the last quarter of 1924 was equivalent to 15s. 5d. in Brisbane in 1901, or 22s. 6d. in Perth in 1911.

| | 'Year. | Sydney. | Melbine. | drisbane. | Adeinido. | Perth. | Hobart, | Weighted Average of 6 Capital Citles. | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | Foo | d and Gi | ROCERTES | (46 Сомы | ODITIES}. | | | | | | | |
| | | 8. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | 8. d. | s. d. | | | | | |
| 1801 | | 18 4 | 19 4 | 19 4 | 20 7 | 23 8 | 20 3 | [9 4 | | | | | |
| 1907 | • • | 18 9 | 18 0 | 18 11 | 19 0 | 23 11 | 20 2 | 19 1 | | | | | |
| 1911 | • • | 10 9 | 18 8 | 20 4 | 20 5 | 20 11 | 21 2 | 20 0* | | | | | |
| 1010 | | 51 V | 29 4 90 s | 28 11 | 4] [94 E | 29 9 95 5 | 32 8 | 00 J 94 4 | | | | | |
| 1000 | •• | 49 0 | 82 U | 30 B | 04 D 49 D | 40 0 | 49 9 | 09 95 49 0 | | | | | |
| 1020 | • | 20 0 | 41 I 90 A | 1 1 2 | 44 0 | 40 0 | 45 0 | 44 U 99 A | | | | | |
| 1099 | - • | 24 1 | 20 11 | 20 3 | 24 6 | 90 U | 25 11 | 27 8 | | | | | |
| 1023 | | 94 5 | 26 1 | 01 22 | 3 8 6 | 26 7 | 27 2 | 96 1 | | | | | |
| 1921 | • • | 24 9 | 39 8 | 33 10 | 85 11 | 37 19 | 37 0 | 94 R | | | | | |
| 1924 | lat Otr. | 35 8 | 24 7 | 35 2 | 36 11 | 37 6 | 37 11 | 35 7 | | | | | |
| | 2nd Otr. | 34 8 | 33 11 | 33 7 | 36 6 | 37 10 | 37 3 | 34 10 | | | | | |
| | 3rd Otr. | 33 11 | 33 3 | 33 5 | 35 3 | 38 1 | 36 10 | 34 2 | | | | | |
| ** | 4th Qtr. | 34 4 | 33 1 | 33 0 | 34 8 | 37 11 | 36 0 | 34 1 | | | | | |
| | HOUSE RENT (WEIGHTED AVERAGE ALL HOUSES). | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1901 | ••••• | 17 3 | 14 8 | 99 | 12 7 | 16 0 | 13 4 1 | 15 1 | | | | | |
| 1907 | | 18 4 | 16 1 | 11 6 | 16 3 | 13 8 | 14 2 | 16 4 | | | | | |
| 1911 | •• | 21 10 | 19 5 | 15 4 | 22 3 | 16 3 | 16 1 | 20 0* | | | | | |
| 1918 | | 25 0 | 23 7 | 18 1 1 | 20 5 | 17 8 1 | 19 1 | 23 10 | | | | | |
| 1918 | | 25 9 | 25 8 | 198. | 23 2 | 18 4 | 22 8 | 24 4 | | | | | |
| 1920 | | 28 4 | 28 1 | 21 3 | 24 4 | 19 11 | 27 5 | 26 8 | | | | | |
| 4921 | •• | 29 6 | 30 0 | 21 7 | 25 9 | 21 0 | 28 10 | 28 4 | | | | | |
| 1000 | •• | 30 8 | | | 27 2 | 21 10 | 28 11 | -29 7 | | | | | |
| 1833 | •• | 32 4 | 33 Đ 04 'N | 24 11 | 29 0 | 23 0 | 32 I 99 A | 81 U 90 0 | | | | | |
| 1094 | 1-+ 0+- | 30 8 99 1 | 24 1 | 94 10 | 90 A | 222 B | 22 2 | 06 6 21 7 | | | | | |
| 1324 | 2nd Of | 99 0 | 94 G | 94 10 | 20 4 | 90 7 | 22 2 | 39 9 | | | | | |
| ** | and Otr | 34 0 | 34 4 | 94 10 | 81 7 | 92 7 | 33 2 | 32 5 | | | | | |
| ** | 4th Otr. | 34 3 | 35 0 | 24 10 | 31 8 | 23 0 | 33 6 | -32 7 | | | | | |
| | | For | D. GROCE | RIES. ANI | House | RENT CON | MBINED. | | | | | | |
| 1 <u>901</u> | | 17 10 | 17 5 | 1 15 5 | 1 17 3 | 20 6 | 17 5 1 | 17 7 | | | | | |
| 1907 | | 18 6 | 17 6 | 15 11 | 17 1 | 19 9 | 17 9 | 17 11 | | | | | |
| 1911 | | 20 7 | 19 0 | 18 4 | 21 2 | 22 6 | 19 1 | 27 0* | | | | | |
| 1918 | | 28 6 | 27 0 - | 25 1 | 26 8 | 24 9 . | 27 1 | 27 3 | | | | | |
| 1919 | | 31 7 | 29 7 | 28 10 | 29 4 | 28 5 | 29 11 | 30 2 | | | | | |
| 1920 | • • | 36 11 | 35 9 | 32 11 | 35 1 | 32 4 | 36 9 | 35 8 | | | | | |
| 1921 | | 34 6 | 34 10 | 30 3 | 33 1 | 32 2 | 35 8 | 33 41 | | | | | |
| 1922 | •• | 32 8 | 32 6 | 28 10 | 31 6 | 29 11 | 33 0 | 32 0 | | | | | |
| 1923 | | 34 9 | 35 0 | 30 2 | 33 5 | 30 9 | 35 1 | 34 0 | | | | | |
| 1921 | · · · · | 34 3 | 34 1 | 30 1 | 38 10 | 31 7 | 85 6 | 88 8 | | | | | |
| 1924 | 181 Whr. | 34 7 | 34 4 | 30 11 | 33 10 | 31 4 | 30 0 | 53 II 99 A | | | | | |
| ** | and wir. | 34 4 | 34 2 | 80 0 | 34 0 | 31 7 | 30 7 95 A | ১১ ৮ ১৯ ⊭ | | | | | |
| 10 | ALL OAL | 33 1 | 00 10 | 29 II 90 9 | 33 9 99 4 | 6 16 i | 30 4 | 33 D 99 A | | | | | |
| ** | 410 QUL | 1 34 3. | 30 10 | 29 8 | 1 35 0 | 1 51 10 | പറെറി | ən 0 | | | | | |

Retail Prices—Amounts necessary or the Average in each Year specified from 1901 to 1924 to purchase in each Capital City what would have cost on the average £1 in 1911 in the Capitals regarded as a whole.

* Base of each Section.

9. Price Details, 1924.—The summarized results of price-movements are published quarterly, and the actual prices of food and groceries for each month are published in the Quarterly Summary of Statistics. Full information with regard to house rents is published annually. In appendixes to Report No. 1, particulars were given of prices and house rents in the capital cities in each year from 1901 to 1911, and in appendixes to Report No. 2, similar particulars were given of prices and house rents in 1912 for each of the 30 towns from which returns are collected. Corresponding data for subsequent years were given in the Report as follows:—1913, Report No. 5; 1914 and 1915, No. 6; 1916, No. 7; 1917, No. 8; 1918, No. 9; 1919, No. 10; 1920, No. 11; 1921, No. 12; 1922, No. 13; 1923, No. 14; and 1924 in this Report.

10. Comparisons with previous years.—The following tables show for each capital city (i.) the total variation per cent. in the cost of food, groceries, and housing combined for 1924, as compared with proceeding years; and (ii.), the amount of such variation due to (a) prices of food and groceries, and (b) house rent. The sum of the percentages for any year and city in the second and third sections of the table is equal to the corresponding total percentage in the first section. Thus, the total percentage of increase in cost of food, groceries, and house rent in Sydney for 1924 compared with 1907 is 85.1 per cent., of which percentage 50.7 is due to increased cost of food and groceries, and 34.4 to increase in house rents.

| | Year. | Sydney. | Melbourne, | l Brisbaue. , | Adelaide. | Perth. | Hobart. | Weighted Average (or 6 Capital Chies, |
|------|-------------|----------|------------|------------------|-----------|----------|---------|---|
| | | Vabiatio | N DUE TO | • Food, (| BOCERTES | , AND HO | USING. | |
| 1901 | b 15 | 91.9 | 95.8 | 95.7 | 95.9 | 53.8 | 104.0 | 91.3 |
| 1907 | · | 85.1 | 94.5 | 89.6 | 89.3 | 60.1 | 100.1 | 87.5 |
| 4914 | | 42.1 | 54.1 | 51.0 | 48.1 | 38.3 | 62.7 | 47.5 |
| 1915 | • •• | 29.5 | 33.3 | 29.6 | 34.5, | 29.2 | 43.9 | 31.6 |
| 1919 | • •• | 8.5 | 14.9 | 4.5 | 15.3 | 11.2 | 18.6 | 11.4 |
| 1920 |) | 1 -7.2 | -4.8 | -8.5 | -3.6 | 2.3 | -3.5 | 5.8 |
| 1921 | | -0.5 | -2.0 | -0.4 | 2.4 | -1.8 | -0.6 | 0.9 |
| 1922 | | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 7.5 | 5.7 | 7.5 | 5.1 |
| 1923 | • • • | -1.3 | -2.7 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 2.7 | 1.0 | -1.1 |
| | | VARIATIO | N DUE TO | PRICES (| or Food | AND GROC | TRIES. | |
| 1901 | | 53.8 | 48.8 | 55.5 | 52.0 | 40.5 | 56.8 | 51.2 |
| 1907 | | 50.7 | 61.1 | 55.1 | 55.3 | 41.4 | 55.8 | 51.2 |
| 1914 | L | 28.2 | 31.7 | 36.2 | 29.7 | 30.4 | 34.4 | 30.4 |
| 1915 | 5 | 15.0 | 12.6 | 16.1 | 14.2 | 19.6 | 19.3 | 14.6 |
| 1919 | | 1.9 | 2.6 | -2.9 | 2.9 | 4.9 | 4.0 | 0.7 |
| 1920 |) | -13.3 | -12.2 | -13.0 | -11.4 | -5.8 | -10.0 | -12.2 |
| 1921 | ι | -5.3 | -7.4 | -4.8 | -4.1 | -3.8 | -5.8 | -5.9 |
| 1922 | 3 | 1.1 | : 1.5 | 3.4 | 2.5 | 4.6 | 2.0 | { 1.8 |
| 1923 | l | -3.0 | ~4.0 | -0.1 | _1.1 | 2.4 | -0.5 | -2.5 |
| | | | VARIATIO | N DUB TO | House | RENTS. | ,, | · |
| 4901 | · · · · · | 38.1 | 47.0 | 40.2 | 43.9 | 13.3 | 47.2 | 40.1 |
| 1907 | | 34.4 | 43.4 | 34.5 | 34.0 | 18.7 | 44.3 | 36.3 |
| 4914 | | 1 13.9 | 22.4 | 14.8 | 18.4 | 7.9 | 28.3 | 17.1 |
| 1916 | 5 | 14.5 | 20.7 | 13.5 | 20.3 | 9.6 | 24.6 | 17.0 |
| 1919 | | 10.4 | 1 12.3 | 1 7.4 | 1 12.4 | 6.3 | 14.6 | 10.7 |
| 1920 |) | 6.1 | 7.4 | 4.5 | 7.8 | 3.5 | 6.5 | 6.4 |
| 1921 | | 4.8 | 5.4 | 4.4 | 1 6.5 | 2.0 | 5.2 | 5.0 |
| 1922 | 3 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 1.0 | 5.0 | 1.1 | 5.5 | 3.3 |
| 1923 | 3 | 1.7 | 1.3 | -0.2 | 2.5 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 1,4 |
| | | | | 1 | <u> </u> | 1 | | • |

Variation per cent. in Price Index-Numbers, Capital Cities, 1901 to 1924.

NOTE.-Variations not preceded by a sign represent increases, those preceded by a minus (-) represent decreases.

11. Change of Basis for Rent Constituent.—From and after the first quarter of 1925, the basis employed in computing the variations in housing costs has been amended to accord with a resolution of the Conference of Statisticians of Australia and New Zealand, held in Adelaide in August, 1924. The conclusion then reached was that "for purposes of computing price levels in respect of rent, it is desirable that houses of four and five rooms only be taken into account."

Up to the present time the practice followed in computing the retail price index-number has been to take into account the rentals of all houses ranging from those of three rooms and under to those of seven rooms and upwards. In respect to rent this practice is, to some extent, a departure from the principle adopted with regard to prices of food and groceries, i.e., that of taking the price of the predominant type of commodity, inasmuch as the rent of houses of other than the predominant type has been included. The Census of 1921 disclosed the fact that while houses having five rooms predominated in some towns, in others the houses of four rooms predominated. Houses of four rooms represented 24 per cent. of the total dwellings, while those of five rooms represented 29 per cent; the two types together representing 53 per cent. of the total. While all the tables hitherto published, which included rent of all houses, will in future be replaced by those including rent of houses of four and five rooms, the preparation of index-numbers for food, groceries and rent of all houses in the 30 towns of the Commonwealth will be continued for the use of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and the parties interested in Awards and Variations made by that Court

§ 3. Clothing and Miscellaneous.

1. General.—The Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, which met in 1919-1920, was appointed to inquire into and report upon the following matters:—

- (i) The actual cost of living at the present time, according to reasonable standards of comfort, including all matters comprised in the ordinary expenditure of a household, for a man with a wife and three children under fourteen years of age, and the several items and amounts which make up that cost.
- (ii) The actual corresponding cost of living during each of the last five years.
- (iii) How the basic wage may be automatically adjusted to the rise and fall from time to time of the purchasing-power of money.

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Reference was made to the findings of this Commission in Report No. 11, pp. 28 and 29. In answer to the third clause of the inquiry, the Commission recommended that "a Bureau of Labour should be organized from existing members of the Public Service, which should ascertain from time to time the rise and fall in the purchasing-power of money in relation to the reasonable standard of comfort for the typical family (i.e., such a family as is described in Clause 1)." This suggestion was adopted by the Government, the Commonwealth Statistician was consulted as to methods, and the duty of carrying ont the recommendation was entrusted to the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

2. Methods Adopted.—The Commission was concerned principally with ascertaining variations in the cost of the regimen adopted, which is described in the "Indicator List" published in the Report. It appeared, however, that the usefulness of the investigations by this Bureau would have been somewhat limited if confined in the way suggested by the Commission, and it was decided, therefore, to apply to a more detailed inquiry the method of index-numbers already used in the investigations into variations in the cost of food, groceries and housing. As will be shown later, the index-numbers may be used to measure accurately from time to time the rise and fall in prices in relation to the reasonable standard of comfort for the typical family as outlined by the Commission, as well as for the determination of variations in any standard fixed by previous investigations or which may be fixed in the future.

The ordinary expenditure of a household has been grouped under four heads---(i) Food and Groceries; (ii) Housing; (iii) Clothing; (iv) Other Requirements.

It was decided to adopt for food, groceries and house rent, the commodities method, and weighting already in use, and the commodities and quantities conform very closely to those given in the "indicator lists" of the Commission. With regard to housing, the Commission adopted a certain type of 5-roomed house as its standard in determining the amount allowed for house rent, but the figures quoted by this Bureau, while not confined to any particular type, fairly represent variations in the rent for the type of house described by the Commission.

Inquiries by this Bureau had been confined to food, groceries and housing. It became necessary, therefore, to investigate the cost of clothing and miscellaneous. With regard to clothing, the Basic Wage Commission collected a large amount of information as to prices and duration of articles, and this has been used in computing the index-numbers given in the following tables.

With regard to miscellaneous expenditure, inquiries were made regarding cost of fuel and light, household utensils, drapery, crackery, and other items in the "indicator lists", and the aggregate expenditure thereon has been computed in the same manner as that for clothing.

The item "groceries (not food)" has been omitted from miscellaneous expenditure, though it was so described by the Commission, as the indexnumbers already published by this Bureau cover the articles allowed for under this heading, such as soap, starch, blue, etc.

3. **Base**.—For comparative purposes, it was necessary to fix some period as base. In the case of index-numbers for food, groceries, and housing, already published, the year 1911 was selected. For the new index-numbers, covering all items of household expenditure, November, 1914, was adopted owing to the difficulty of securing information with regard to prices of clothing and miscellaneous items for earlier years. While the index-numbers for 1914 in the following tables relate to the month of November, they may be accepted as typical of conditions immediately preceding the war. For base the weighted average cost for the six capital cities has been taken, and the aggregate expenditure in November, 1914, made equal to 1,000.

4. Variations—Thirty Towns.—The investigations have been extended to the 30 towns for the months of November, 1921, and May, August and November, 1922, and quarterly for the year 1923 and subsequently. The task of securing information for previous years as to prices of clothing and miscellaneous requirements in towns other than the capitals was considered unnecessary. So far as the capitals are concerned, details were already available in the Report of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage. Information of this nature is at present collected quarterly for all the towns, and quarterly index numbers are available.

5. Variations—Nov., 1914, to 4th Quarter, 1924.—The following tables give index-numbers for (i) Food and Groceries; (ii) Housing; (iii) Food, Groceries and Housing Combined; (iv) Clothing; (v) Miscellaneous Requirements; (vi) Food and Groceries, Housing, Clothing and Miscellaneous Requirements combined.

| | | - E | | | : : : 1924 | | | | • · · · I | : 5 | | |
|----------|--|---|--|-----------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--------|---|---|-----------------------------------|------------|
| | 4 144 QUT. 2nd 3rd 4ch | 1914 1915 1917 1918 1918 1918 1918 1922 1924 1924 1924 1924 1924 1924 1924 | Period. | | 4184 QFF, | - 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1918 1919 1921 1922 1922 1922 1922 | Period. | | | V. 1914 1915 1916 1918 1918 1918 1918 1918 1918 1918 | Period. | |
| 1 | 1,634 1,650 1,650 1,653 1,653 | 1,164 1,277 1,282 1,282 1,292 1,292 1,272 1,282 1,272 1,282 1,272 1,272 1,272 1,272 1,272 1,272 1,2777 1,2777 1,2777 1,2777 1,2777 1,2777 1,2777 1,2777 1,2777 1,2 | Perth. | WE | 1,533 1,486 1,458 1,458 1,440 | 1,341 1,341 1,287 1,287 1,287 1,287 1,287 1,287 1,287 1,287 1,287 1,287 1,2742 1,490 1,396 | Brisbane. | | 1,555 1,555 1,478 1,478 | 1,503 1,503 1,508 | Sydney. | |
| | 1,849 1,866 1,845 1,845 | 1,748 | Kalgoorlie. | STERN | 1,474 1,386 1,376 1,349 | L-1-7- 3964 965 | Toowoomba. | UEENS | 1,587 | 1,5224 | Newcastle. | N.S |
| | 1,695 1,739 1,064 1,589 | 1,711 772 | Northam. | A USTR N UMB | 1,46 | ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, | Rock | LAND, | 1,588 | | Broken Hill. | .w1 |
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| ļ | 1,783 783 | 1,732 | Geraldton. | -INDI | <u>19883</u> | <u>2</u> 232 | Towers. | DN-X2 | -5828 | | | NUN |
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| 15¢. | 1,053 1,623 1,623 1,608 1,569 | 1,072 1,259 1,239 1,432 1,624 1,624 1,624 1,624 1,625 1,625 1,625 1,613 | Hobart. | TAS | 1,530 1,462 1,454 1,436 | 1,482 1,482 1,483 | Weighted A verage, Queensland. | | 1,562 1,519 1,485 1,499 | 1,504 1,526 1,526 | Weighted Average, N.S.W. | |
| | 1,626 1,618 1,596 1,597 | 1,495 1,495 | Launceston. | SHANIA. | 1,600 | 1,066 1,257 1,257 1,257 1,468 1,575 | Adelaide. | So | 1,507 1,478 1,450 1,450 | 1,4822 1, | Melbourne. | |
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| | 1,049 1,028 1,014 1,575 | 1,577 1,511 1,617 | Weighted Av'ge, Tas. | ţò | 1,475 1,477 1,483 1,488 | 1,440 1,440 1,530 | Mt. Gambier. | -INDEX | 1,487 1,468 1,472 1,479 | 1,467 1,467 1,533 | Geelong. | DEX-N |
| | 1,651 1,518 1,488 1,487 | 1,000 1,200 1,214 1,214 1,267 | Weighted Aver 6 Capital Cities | agə I. | 1,533 1,533 1,664 1,633 | 1,554 1,554 1,585 | Peter- borough. | -NGMB | 1,537 1,521 1,493 1,461 1,461 | 1,520 1,520 | Warmam- bool. | UMBER |
| | 1,556 1,523 1,495 1,491 | 1,487 | Weighted Aver 30 Towns, Australia. | age | 1,603 1,580 1,537 1,515 | 1,480 1,587 | Weighted Average, S.A. | ERS. | 1,509 1,430 1,483 1,442 | 1,441 4,420 4,420 4,420 1,420 | Weighted Average, Victoria, | <i>v</i> i |

Food and Groceries (46 Commodities) Index-Numbers-30 Towns ; Weighted ł

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| | 1,016 1,017 1,017 1,017 | L,012 966 910 922 | Perth. | WES | 1,119 1,120 1,120 1,118 1,118 1,118 | 1,109 1,1124 1,1124 | Brisbane. | _ | 1,490 1,520 1,531 1,531 1,542 | 1,146 1,094 1,1094 1,1094 1,1137 1,1137 1,1137 1,1137 1,1137 1,1137 1,1137 1,1137 1,1137 | Sydney. | | dex-Ni |
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| 18¢. | 1,499 1,498 1,493 1,512 | 1,501 1,201 1,201 1,201 1,201 1,201 1,201 1,201 | Hobart. | TA | 1,070 1,075 1,072 1,072 | 1,012 1,012 | Weighted A verage, Queensfand, | RS. | 1,446 1,473 1,484 1,484 | 1,1,203 4,7493 | Weighted Average, N.S.W. | |)ighted (= 1, |
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| | 1,882 1,384 1,384 1,382 1,392 | 1,081 | Weighted Av'ge, Tas. | RS- | 2020 4020 | 70844 444 | Mt. Gambier. | -INDE: | 1,212 1,212 1,212 1,212 | ··· ··· ··· ··· ··· ··· ··· ··· ··· ·· | Geelong. | NDEX-N | upital |
| | 1,422 1,451 1,459 1,469 | 7,000 9770 1,054 1,125 1,243 1,287 1,287 | Weighted Avera 6 Gapital Cities. | 8 ¢ | 008 1,055 1,075 1,081 | 1,052 844 | Peter- borough. | к-Мамв | 1,193 1,195 1,195 1,191 1,191 | ··· ··· ··· 1,055 1,095 1,192 | Warrnam - bool. | BAGWO] | Cities, |
| | 1,386 1,392 1,399 1,408 | 1,206 1,342 | Weighted Avera 30 Towns, Australia, | ge | 1,271 1,350 1,362 1,368 | 1,112 1,112 1,1250 | Weighted A verage, S.A. | ERS. | 1,470 1,404 1,500 1,512 | 1,301 1,451 | Weighted Average, Victoria. | ,s I | Nov., |

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| | 1,385 | | Kalgoorlie. | TERN | 1,303 1,257 1,257 1,246 | 1,2201 1,2201 | Toowoomba. | UBENS | 1,457 1,424 1,405 1,402 | 1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1, | Newcastle, | N.S. |
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| | 1,591 1,573 1,573 1,546 | 1,208 1,207 1,207 1,208 1,208 1,208 1,208 1,208 1,208 1,208 1,208 1,208 1,208 1,208 1,208 | Hobart. | TAS | 1,345 1,298 | 1,1257 311757 | Weighted Average, Queensland. | | 1,515 1,501 1,484 1,484 1,484 | 1,419 1,419 1,452 1,452 1,452 | Weighted Average, N.S.W. | |
| | 1,486 1,482 1,482 1,452 | 1,454 2,454 | Launceston. | MANIA. | 1,494 1,523 1,490 1,479 | $\begin{array}{c} 1,108\\ 1,376\\ 1,496\\ 1,$ | Adelaide. | Bog | 1,518 1,509 1,497 1,497 | 1,125 1,125 1,125 1,125 1,125 1,125 1,232 1,232 1,445 1,546 1,546 1,546 | Melbourne. | |
| ĺ | 1,505 1,496 1,485 1,485 1,429 | 1,453 | Burnie. | -INDI | 1,232 1,232 1,215 1,215 | 1,128 | Kadina, Moonta, and | TH AU | 1,31(1,219 1,276 1,276 1,276 | 1,220 1,229 | Ballarat. | Via |
| | 1,479 1,490 1,464 | [,1,4,6;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;; | Devonport. | SX-NO | 01000 | | Port Pirie | ISTRAI | | | Bendigo | PORt. |
| | 1,284 | 1, <u>229</u> 1,229 | Queenstown. | MDER | 8228 | 988¥ | 1010 1400. | | 2328 | | | |
| | 1,542 1,530 1,520 1,520 | 1,377 1,5065 | Weighted Av'ge, Tas. | şa. | 165 | | Mt. Gambier. | INDEX | 337 387 387 387 387 387 387 387 387 387 | | Geelong. | EX-N |
| | 1,499 1,491 1,477 1,477 1,480 | 1,000 1,150 1,150 1,181 1,227 1,426 1,429 1,426 1,426 1,404 1,426 | Weighted Aven 6 Capital Cities | rägð 8. | 1,317 1,359 1,393 1,411 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | Peter- borough. | -Noxb | 1,398 1,390 1,371 1,352 | нцнн 93868 808 808 808 808 | Warmam- bool. | U MB ERS |
| | 1,479 1,479 1,456 1,458 | 1,374 1,374 1,488 | Weighted Aver 30 Towns, Australia. | rage, | 1,469 1,496 1,496 1,466 1,466 | 1111 4432 79477 12477 | Weighted Average, S.A. | ERŞ. | 1,490 1,490 1,480 1,480 1,471 | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | Weighted Average, Victoria. | ;- |

Food, Groceries and Housing Combined,--Index-Numbers-30 Towns ; Weighted Average

CLOTHING AND MISCELLANEOUS,

* Base.

8

| | | N.S.W | ¥181 | ex-N u | IBERS. | | | Vio | toria | .—IN | dex-N | UMBER5 | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| Period. | Sydney. | Newcastle. | Broken Hill. | Goulburn. | Bathurst. | Veighted Average, N.S.W. | Melbourne. | Ballarat. | | Bendigo. | Geekong. | Warrnam- bool. | Weighted A verage. Victoria, |
| Nov. 1914 1915 1917 1918 1919 1919 1920 1921 1922 1922 1924 | 1,002 1,067 1,197 1,337 1,462 1,641 1,754 1,665 1,304 1,317 1,241 | 1,760 1,415 1,430 1,331 | 1,683 1,413 1,309 1,173 | 1,822 1,577 1,531 1,567 | 1,672 1,458 1,410 1,361 | 1,676 1,401 1,330 1,252 | 1,035 1,056 1,154 1,294 1,463 1,609 1,885 1,685 1,424 1,416 1,357 | 2,12 1,81 1,49 1,39 | | ··· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· | 1,940 1,729 1,481 1,403 | 2,138 1,597 1,556 1,602 | 1,758 1,758 1,479 1,429 1,303 |
| 1924 1st Qta. ,, 2nd ,, ,, 3rd ,, ,, 4th ,, | 1,237 1,263 1,234 1,242 | 1,351 1,318 1,326 1,331 | 1,192 1,182 1,187 1,132 | 1,601 1,551 1,558 1,558 | $1,334 \\ 1,957 \\ 1,366 \\ 1,385$ | 1,250 1,261 1,245 1,251 | 1,357 1,367 1,354 1,350 | 7 1,40 7 1,40 4 1,31 1 1,31 | $ \begin{array}{c c} 1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \\ 7 \\ 1 \\ 7 \\ 1 \end{array} $ | 884 3 10 374 335 | 1,372 1,423 1,414 1,403 | 1,590 1,643 1,608 1,568 | $1,363 \\ 1,374 \\ 1,361 \\ 1,855$ |
| | ୍ବ | DEENSI | | INDEX-] | TOMBER | is. | - So1 | UTH AT | USTR. | LIA | -INDE: | c-NUME | ERS. |
| Period. | Brisbane. | Toowoom ba. | Rock- hampton. | Chartors Towers. | Warwick. | Weighted Averago, Queensland. | Adelaide. | Kadına, Moonta, and | Wallaróo. | Port Pirie. | Mt. Gambler. | Peter- borough. | Weighted Average, S.A. |
| Nov. 1914 , 1915 , 1916 , 1917 , 1918 , 1918 , 1918 , 1920 , 1922 Year 1023 , 1924 | 872 915 1,031 1,192 1,859 1,581 1,689 1,492 1,205 1,426 1,379 | i,867 i,31,4 1,441 i,445 | 1,926 1,554 1,433 1,421 | 2,079 1,341 1,344 1,269 | 2,015 1,647 1,492 1,413 | 1,638 1,338 1,338 1,427 1,385 | $1,002 \\1,088 \\1,218 \\1,392 \\1,414 \\1,728 \\1,830 \\1,585 \\1,363 \\1,441 \\1,451 \\$ | 1,90 1,30 1,47 1,42 | 3 1 4 1 0 1 1 1 | | 2,251 1,040 1,604 1,567 | 1,503 1,104 1,417 1,394 | 1,641 1,841 1,375 1,443 1,449 |
| 1924 1st Qtr. , 2nd ,, , 3rd ,, , 4th ,, | 1,377 1,382 1,370 1,377 | 1,412 1,46L 1,448 1,460 | 1,402 1.450 1.443 1.389 | 1,321 1,270 1,263 1,221 | $1,405 \\ 1,425 \\ 1,414 \\ 1,407$ | $\begin{array}{c} 1,381 \\ 1,391 \\ 1,387 \\ 1,379 \end{array}$ | 1,4291,4611,4501,4501,455 | 1,41 1,43 1,49 1,49 | 21 | 420 435 408 368 | 1,556 1,579 1,582 1,550 | $\substack{1,370\\1,398\\1,414\\1,898}$ | 1,429 1,460 1,457 1,451 |
| | WES | TERN / | USTRA NUMPE | 1.1A — I X NS. | DEX- | T AS | MANIA. | IND | EX-N | UMBE | R5. | ere Lies. | er age |
| Period , | Perth. | Kalgonrlie. | Northam. | Geraldton. | Weighted Av ge, W A. | Hohart. | Launceston | Burnie. | Devonport | Queenstown. | Weighted Av'ge, Tas. | Weighted Av Six Capital G | Weighted Av 30 Towns, Australia. |
| Nov. 1914 1915 1915 1917 1917 1919 1919 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1923 1924 | 926 1,007 1,128 1,300 1,505 1,694 1,802 1,634 1,316 1,396 1,346 | 1,824 L,424 1,512 1 1,517 1 | | 928 1,75 324 1,36 474 1,41 450 1,31 | 1 1,693 1 1,359 9 1,409 9 1,364 | 1,094 1,105 1,246 1,380 1,592 1,782 1,890 1,892 1,666 1,643 1,639 | 2,214 1,673 1,548 1,513 | 1,457 1,417 | 1,437 1,872 | 1,99 1,61 1,62 1,57 | 4 2,006 2 1,055 8 1,598 9 1,579 | 1,000* 1,050 1,168 1,315 1,454 1,641 1,641 1,653 1,395 1,380 1,330 | 1,710 1,426 1,397 1,339 |
| 1924 1st Qir. 2nd 3rd ., 4th | 1,842 1,348 1,373 1,319 | 1,584 1, 1,568 1, 1,457 1, 1,460 1, | $\begin{array}{c} 271 & 1,4 \\ 265 & 1,5 \\ 258 & 1,4 \\ 242 & 1,4 \end{array}$ | 457 1,34 438 1,33 480 1,31 461 1,28 | 1 1,309 3 1,571 6 1,381 5 1,384 | 1,655 1,636 1,632 1,631 | 1,504 1,516 1,525 1,507 | 1,431 1,421 1,413 1,402 | 1,366 1,377 1,074 1,370 | 1,52 1,55 1,59 1,63 | 01,685 81,578 81,579 41,574 | 1,326 1,339 1,329 1,327 | 1,336 1,348 1,338 1,334 |

Clothing.—Index-Numbers--30 Towns ; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, base (= 1,000).

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Base.

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| Miscellaneous | -Index-Numbers—3 | 10 Towns ; | Weighted | Average | Şix | Capital | Cities, | Nov., |
|---------------|------------------|------------|--------------------|---------|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| | | 1914, base | + (= 1,000 |). | | | | |

| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | N.S. | w: | INDEX | -Nu | IBERS, | | | VI | OTOR | IA.—IN | dex-N | UMBERS | |
|---|---|--|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Period. | Sydney. | Newcastle. | Broken Hill | | Goulburn. | Bathurst. | Weighted Average, N.S.W. | Melbourne. | ; | Ballarat. | Bendigo. | Geelong. | Warmam- bool. | Weighted A verage, Victoria, |
| Nov. 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1919 1920 1921 Year 1923 1924 | 1,022 1,066 1,079 1,180 1,310 1,414 1,615 1,348 1,381 1,364 1,358 | 1,328 1,273 1,242 1,253 | 1,4' 1,4' 1,4 | 71 1, 30 1, 38 1, 32 1, | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | 1,850 1,371 1,863 1,349 | 97 1,02 1,04 1,17 1,26 1,35 1,57 1,36 1,30 1,31 1,34 | 1 8 7 4 8 7 7 1,2 6 1,2 1,2 1,2 1,2 1,2 1,2 1,2 1,2 1,2 1,2 | 77 25 33 56 | 1,852 1,317 1,259 1,261 | 1,879 1,347 1,285 1,279 | 1,175 1,137 1,183 1,173 | 1,355 1,300 1,308 1,332 |
| 1924 1st Qir, ,, 2nd ,, ,, 3rd ,, 4th ,, | 1,362 1,358 1,356 1,357 | $1,264 \\ 1,262 \\ 1,244 \\ 1,244 \\ 1,244 $ | 1,4 1,4 1,4 1,4 | $ \begin{array}{c} 20 & 1, \\ 27 & 1, \\ 41 & 1, \\ 30 & 1, \end{array} $ | 231 220 219 216 | 1,203 1,264 1,261 1,259 | 1,353 1,349 1,347 1,348 | 1,33 1,35 1,35 1,33 | $ \begin{array}{c c} 3 & 1,2 \\ 1 & 1,2 \\ 2 & 1,2 \\ 2 & 1,2 \\ 1 & 1,2 \\ $ | 50 61 251 | 1,249 1,267 1,265 1,265 | 1,262 1,277 1,287 1,289 | 1,172 1,175 1,178 1,178 1,171 | 1,322 1,340 1,341 1,323 |
| | | QUBEN | SLANI | D.—IN | DEX- | NUMBEI | u\$. | sc | отн / | UST | *ALLA | -INDE | C-N 0 MB | ERS. |
| Period. | Brishane. | Toowoomba | Rock- | Bam pton. | Towers. | Warwick. | Weighted Average, Queensland. | Adelnide. | Kadina. | Waltaroo. | Port Plrie. | Mt. Gambier. | Peter- borough. | Weighter Average, S.A. |
| Nov, 1914 , 1915 , 1916 , 1918 , 1918 , 1919 , 1920 , 1921 , 1922 Year 1923 , 1924 | 971 1,009 1,022 1,117 1,243 1,293 1,520 1,261 1,232 1,247 1,252 | 1,273 1,244 1,239 1,245 | 1,33 1,21 1,24 1,23 | 18 1, 75 1, 17 1, 18 1, | 347 231 298 301 | 1,320 1,250 1,261 1,224 | 1,279 1,238 1,249 1,251 | 1,02 $1,07$ $1,11$ $1,18$ $1,31$ $1,360$ $1,37$ $1,35$ $1,37$ $1,37$ | 8 . 3 . 1 . 2 . 3 1,4 3 1,4 5 1,3 0 1,3 1 1,3 | 23 1 45 1 61 1 | ,422 ,369 ,358 ,365 | ··· ··· ··· 1,378 1,310 1,312 1,335 | 1,336 1,306 1,314 1,368 | 1,383 1,353 1,368 1,369 |
| 1-124 1et Qt1. ,, 2nd ,, . 3rd ,, . 4th ,, | 1,251 1,251 1,251 1,251 1,251 | 1,250 1,243 1,245 1,244 1,244 | 1,2 1,2 1,2 1,2 | 13 1, 17 1, 17 1, 17 1, | 304 304 297 309 | 1,228 1,230 1,220 1,219 | 1,252 1,250 1,253 1,250 | 1,36 1,37 1,37 1,36 | | 55 1 64 1 61 1 60 1 | L,355 1,356 L,376 L,374 | 1,335 1,334 1,335 1,335 | 1,358 1,378 1,368 1,368 | 1,365 1,373 1,371 1,308 |
| | WE | STERN | AUST NUM | BALIA BERS, | IN | DEX- | TAS | MANIA | IN | DEX-I | I A KID B | B\$. | erafe ties. | stage, |
| Period. | Perth. | Kalgoorlie. | Northam. | Bunbury. | Geraldton. | Weighted Av'ge, W.A. | Hobart. | Launceston. | Burnie. | . Devonport. | Queenstown. | Weighted Av'ge, Tas. | Weighted Av Bix Capital C | Weighted Av 30 Towns, Australia. |
| Nov. 1014 1015 1016 1016 1017 1018 1019 1019 1019 1019 1021 1022 1022 1022 1022 1022 | 1,041 1,098 1,161 1,236 1,382 1,495 1,685 1,374 1,339 1,344 1,326 | 1,375 1,375 1,533 1,302 1,309 | 1,251 1,278 | 1,304 1,231 1,240 1,249 | 1,47 1,42 1,40 1,30 | 1 1,374 2 1,336 1 1,336 5 1,323 | 934 1,028 1,041 1,155 1,262 1,344 1,501 1,245 1,243 1,243 1,243 | 1,315 1,234 1,255 1,249 | 1,14 1 1,14 7 | ··· ·· ·· 1,14 1,12 | 1,28/ 1,23/ 1,23/ 1,08/ | 1,271 2 1,237 6 1,237 3 1,231 | 1,000* 1,050 1,071 1,178 1,298 1,384 1,594 1,349 1,334 1,334 1,340 | 1,347 1,325 1,325 1,339 |
| 1024 1-t Qtr. 2nd ,, 3rd ,, 4th ,, | 1,829 1,831 1,323 1,322 | 1,308 1,312 1,310 1,308 | 1,281 1,280 1,277 1,273 | 1,246 1,252 1,252 1,246 | 1,39 1,39 1,40 1,39 | $ \begin{array}{c} 1 1,325 \\ 3 1,827 \\ 7 1,321 \\ 0 1,329 \\ \hline 1,329 \\ \hline $ | $\begin{array}{c} 1,244 \\ 1,252 \\ 1,245 \\ 1,242 \\ 1,242 \end{array}$ | 1,248 1,246 1,249 1,249 | 1,142 1,140 1,150 1,153 | 1,12 1,12 1,12 1,12 1,12 | 2 1,08 2 1,08 2 1,08 0 1,08 | 2 1,220 5 1,234 4 1,230 2 1,221 | 1,338 1,344 1,343 1,336 | 1,329 1,334 1,333 1.327 |

* Rase.

| | 1024 145 Qtr., 2 2nd 3rd 4th | Nov. 1914 1915 1916 1917 1918 1918 1918 1918 1918 1918 1921 1921 1921 1922 1922 1924 1924 1924 1924 1924 1924 1924 1924 1924 1924 1924 1924 1935 1937 1 | Period. | | 1924 1st Qu. ,, 2nd ,, ,, 3rd ,, ,, 4th ,, | Nov, 1914 1915 1916 1918 1918 1918 1918 1918 1921 1921 1921 1922 1922 1922 1922 1922 | Perlod. | | 1924 1st Qtr. ,, 2nd ,, ,, 3rd ,, ,, 4th ,, | Nov. 1014 1915 1915 1916 1918 1918 1918 1918 1918 1918 1921 1922 1922 1924 | Period. | |
|--------|---|---|---|------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| ľ | 1,305 1,372 1,380 1,369 | $1,001 \\ 1,123 \\ 1,12$ | Perth. | N R | 1,348 1,326 1,326 1,326 1,326 | 1,046 1,046 1,016 1,016 1,222 1,222 1,222 1,222 1,222 1,223 1,223 1,223 | Brisbane. | | 1,428 1,428 1,424 1,410 1,420 | 1,037 1,159 1,187 1,2260 1,5477 1,54777 1,54777 1,54777 1,547777 1,54777777777777777777777777777777777777 | Sydney. | |
| | 1,425 1,423 1,399 | 1,4003 1,4003 | Kalgoorlie. | STERN | 1,320 1,304 1,204 1,207 1,207 | 1,380 1,380 1,3229 | Toowoomba. | NBBR | 1,397 1,369 1,357 1,357 | 1,461 1,461 | Newcastle. | N.8 |
| | 1,324 1,342 1,342 1,293 | | Northam. | AGSTR | L L L L L | 11111 12212 228239 | Rock- | LAND,- | 1,31,1,31,1,30,1,30,1,30,1,30,1,30,1,30 | | Broken Hill. | W] |
| | 354 4 54 | L,3622 | Bunbury. | | ריקובים היידים היידים | | Charters | -IND) | | | Coulhum | YDEX- |
| 5 | L,363 ,376 | 1,450 1,828 2,828 1,516 | Geraldton. | | 5388 | 4024 | Towers. | ax-N | 8888 | #308 · · · · · · · · | | NUMB |
| to eie | 1,369 1,376 1,376 1,370 | 1,424 1,314 1,314 | Weighted Av'ge, W.A. | Ρ.Υ. | 2012 1202 1202 1202 1202 1202 1202 1202 | 12015 ≠ 8 | Warwick. | /MBER | 22000 | | Bathurst. | BRS. |
| Table. | 1,545 | 1,121 1,121 1,121 1,258 1,258 1,258 1,258 1,258 1,582 1,582 1,582 1,582 | Hobart. | | 1,337 1,317 1,317 1,318 | 111-1 332-253 34253 34253 34253 | Weighted Average, Queensland. | <i>.</i> • | 1,422 1,416 1,416 1,411 | 1,409 1,425 1,444 | Weighted Average, N.S.W. | |
| | 1,448 1,448 1,448 1,443 1,429 | L,585 | Launceston. | | 1,455 | 1,140 1,140 1,140 1,140 1,140 1,140 1,467 1,467 1,467 | Adelaide. | so | 1,446 1,440 1,437 1,437 | 1,117 1,117 1,124 1,124 1,124 1,124 1,294 1,294 1,704 1,704 1,417 1,417 1,417 1,417 | Melbourne. | · |
| | 1,422 1,416 1,416 1,408 1,373 | | Burnie. | | L,29 | 1,292 | Kadina, Moonta, and | JTH AU | 1,325 1,302 1,202 | 1,3655 | Ballarat. | Vigro |
| | 8558 | L. 408 | Devonport. | | | | wallaroo. | ISTILA | <u></u> | | Bandiro | SRIA |
| ļ | 1,309 1,309 1,329 1,328 | 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 | Queenstown. | | 8838 | 6558. · · · · · · | Port Pine. | LIA | 2958 | | | -IND |
| | 1,497 | 1771 4441 5004 | Weighted Av'ge, Tas. | | 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 | 201748 | Mt. Gambler. | -Index | 355 341 341 | 3495 356 356 | Geelong. | ₽X•N U |
| | 1,428 1,428 1,417 1,417 | 1,402 1,402 1,402 | Weighted Avera Six Capital Cilies | 5 0 | 1,337 1,337 1,370 1,400 | 1,2224 2,2224 2,2224 | Peter- borough. | -ŇΩME | 1,404 1,419 1,393 1,372 | 1,460 1,390 | Warmam- bool. | H D BILS. |
| | 1,416 | | Weighted Avera 30 Towns, Australia. | ge | 1,441 1,400 1,447 1,439 | 1,413 1,413 1,4365 | Weighted Average, 8.A. | IKRS | 1,432 1,432 1,423 1,423 | 1,408 1,461 | Weighted Average, Victoria. | |

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Total Household Expenditure.---Index-Numbers---30 Towns ; Weighted Average Six Capital Cities, Nov., 1914, Base (= 1,000).

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38

CLOTHING AND MISCELLANEOUS.

6. Application of Index-Numbers.—The following table shows the manner in which the index-numbers in the preceding tables may be applied to the findings of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage :—

Basic Wage Commission's Findings of 1920.—Cost at November, 1914, 1920, 4th Quarter, 1923, and 4th Quarter, 1924.

| Town | Novemb | er, 1914. | Novemb | er, 1920. 4th Quart | | ter, 1923. | 4th Quarter, 1924. | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|--------------------------|--|
| Tows. | Index- Number. | Relative Cost. | Actual Finding. | Indox- Number, | Index- Number, | Relative Index Cost. Numbe | | r. Relative er. Cost. | |
| Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Adelaide Perth Hobart Wtd. Aver | 1,037 986 898 997 1,001 997 1,000 | £ s. d. 3 12 3 3 7 5 3 3 1 3 9 H0 8 13 6 3 7 7 3 9 7 | $\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | 1,681 1,704 1,511 1,657 1,652 1,724 1,665 | 1,456 1,471 1,356 1,455 1,339 1,527 1,446 | $\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$ | 1,420 1,431 1,816 1,453 1,369 1,512 1,417 | | |

The table shows, in the third column, the amount determined by the Basic Wage Commission as the cost of living according to the standard fixed by the Commission in November, 1920. Applying the index-numbers for 4th quarter, 1923, and 4th quarter, 1924, the relative costs of the Commission's standard for those two quarters are obtained. In order to check the applicability of the index-numbers for the determination of variations in the Basic Wage Commission's finding, the relative costs of the standard fixed for November, 1914, have been computed in the same manner. While they do not correspond exactly with the amounts as given in the supplementary Report of the Commission, they are sufficiently near to show that the method adopted by this Bureau for measuring the variations gives results which closely approximate to those of the Commissior. The amounts for November, \$914, as found by the Commission, are given on page 17 of this Report. The greatest difference between the results is shown for Hobart, and amounts to only 1s. 6d. per week, while for Melbourne the difference is only 4d. per week.

§ 4. Retail Price Index-Numbers, 200 Towns.

1. General.—To supplement the information collected monthly for the 30 towns specified in the preceding chapter, a special investigation into prices in 70 additional towns was undertaken in November, 1913. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and again in November 1915, when the number of additional towns was increased to 120. In November, 1923, the number was further increased to 170. Information in regard to prices obtained in November each year will relate, therefore, to 200 towns. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin No. 5 (Section IV, pages 26 to 33), where some description was given of the methods adopted in making the investigation and in computing the indexnumbers. The results of succeeding investigations have appeared in the Labour Bulletins and Reports of this Bureau.

2. **Results**—1922 to 1924.—The results of the investigation in November, 1924, are set out in the tables on pages 40 to 43. (See end of last column, on page 43). Aggregate expenditure on food and groceries separately is shown in the form of index-numbers for each year in column A. In columns B and C the corresponding aggregate expenditure on food, groceries. and rent of 4-rooms; and food, groceries, and rent of 5-rooms are shown for each year for each town. The index-number 1,597 (see page 43), represents the weighted average expenditure in 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5-roomed houses; 1,472 represents the average weighted expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of 4-roomed houses in November, 1924. Similarly, in column A, the index-number 1,012 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only for November, 1924. The figures given in the table are comparable throughout. Thus, taking the average weighted expenditure for the 200 towns on food, groceries, and rent of 5roomed houses as equal to 1,597, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 1,600; while if 4-roomed houses were substituted for 5-roomed the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 1,455 compared with an expenditure of 1,472 on the average for 200 towns.

The change made in Report No. 13 in the basis on which the index-numbers were computed is continued in this issue. Previously the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries and rent of 5-roomed houses for the 150 towns in each year was taken as base. In the tables on the following pages the same base is taken as in the tables referring to 30 towns and 6 capital cities given in the second paragraph, i.e., the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and housing in the 6 capital cities in 1911 is made equal to 1,000.

Index-Numbers—Cost of Food, Groceries and Housing in 200 Towns for November, 1922, 1923, and 1924, compared with the Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent for all houses in the Six Capital Cities in 1911 as base (= 1,000).

| | N | 1922. To vember | · | N | 1923. overniber | ÷ | 1024. November, | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|---|---|
| State and Town, | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Grocerles and Rent of 4. Roomed Houses. | Food, Growertes and Rent of 5- Roomod Houses. | Food and Grocerles only. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 5- Roomed Houses. | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 5- ' Roomed Houses. |
| Yew Şouth Wales | A | в | с | A | в | c | .1 | | C. |
| Sydney | 1,034 | 1,653 | 1,641 | 1,087 | 1,608 | 1,705 | 1,022 | 1,559 1,347 | 1,690 |
| Broken Hill | 1,008 | 1 331 | 1 402 | 1,120 | 1,001 | 1 587 | 1 1 1 5 | 1 467 | 1 625 |
| Goulburn | 986 | 1.409 | 1.627 | 1,095 | 1.570 | 1.661 | 1.020 | 1.521 | 1.094 |
| Bothurst | 940 | 1.187 | 1,309 | 1.045 | 1.325 | 1,414 | 941 | 1,264 | 1,370 |
| Albury | 986 | 1,519 | 1,594 | 1,060 | 1,636 | 1,754 | 990 | 1,648 | $1,78^{-5}$ |
| Armidale | 974 | 1,882 | 1,404 | 1,078 | 1,424 | 1,536 | 986 | 1,371 | 1,469 |
| Itallina | | | | 1,169 | 1,511 | 1,564 | 1,052 | 1,540 | 1,678 |
| Bega | 983 | 1,259 | 1,858 | 1,132 | 1,408 | 1,530 | 1,029 | 1,322 | 1,437 |
| Berry | 1 | | | 1,117 | 1,418 | 1,512 | 1,068 | 1,331 | 1,490 |
| Blackheath | | | | 1,190 | 1,633 | 1,725 | 1,130 | 1,623 | 1,738 |
| Bourke | 1,055 | 1,232 | 1,285 | 1,228 | 1,426 | 1,505 | 1,059 | 1,200 | 1,292 |
| Sowral | 1,001 | 1,405 | 1,004 | 1,141 | 1.701 | 1,700 | 1,000 | 1,040 | 1 1211 |
| Casino | 1,011 | 1,010 | 1,439 | 1,100 | 1,041 | 1,045 | 1,000 | 1,480 | 1 423 |
| Ceban | 1 1 1 1 2 | 1 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 7 4 | 1,1150 | 1 961 | 1,000 | 1074 | 1 169 | 1 200 |
| Coome | 1 1 004 | 1 909 | 1,200 | 1 990 | 1 41 | 1,204 | 1 083 | 1 125 | 1.53 |
| Coonarable | 1,045 | 1 959 | 1 4 36 | 1 142 | 1'405 | 1 475 | 1.077 | 1 400 | 1 1 2 |
| Cootamundra | 021 | 1 337 | 1 440 | 1,098 | 1 558 | 1 600 | 976 | 1.447 | 1.549 |
| Corringt | 1 013 | 1 300 | 1 391 | 1 106 | 1 495 | 1 527 | 975 | 1 304 | 1 370 |
| Cowra | 974 | 1 372 | 1.484 | 1.074 | 1,505 | 1,599 | 1.017 | 1.438 | 1.511 |
| Cronutia | | -, | | 1,155 | 1.748 | 1,879 | 1.071 | 1.713 | 1,845 |
| Cudgegong | | 1 | | 1.167 | 1.364 | 1,463 | 1,053 | 1,289 | 1,355 |
| Deniflauin | 1,008 | 1,309 | 1,378 | 1,087 | 1,405 | 1,474 | 1,009 | 1,336 | 1,430 |
| Dubbo | 1,018 | 1,445 | 1.542 | 1.204 | 1,657 | 1,791 | 1,065 | 1,587 | 1,641 |
| Forbes | 1,014 | 1,398 | 1,569 | 1,105 | 1,559 | 1,787 | L,000 | 1,401 | 1,651 |
| Gilgandra | · · · · | 1 | | 1,136 | 1,426 | 1,505 | 1,016 | 1,268 | 1,321 |
| | 4 | 1 | 1 | ι - | 1 · | | L | ļ | ę – |

Index-Numbers-Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns, etc.-continued.

| <u> </u> | N | 1922. ovember | | N | 1923. ovember | | | 1924. ovember | `. |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| State and Town. | Food and Grocertes only. | Food, Grocerles and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses. | Food, Groeries and Rent of 5- Roomed Houses. | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 6- Roomed Rouses. | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 4- Roomed Rouses, | Food, Groceries and Rent of 5- Roomed Houses. |
| New South Walescontd. Glen Innes Graficon Grafiton Grafith Gugung Gugung Gugung Gugung Gugung Gugung Gugung Invereil June Katoomba Ismore Lismore Lismore Mattand Moree Mattand Mattand Narrabri Parkes Port Kembla Port Kembla Port Kembla Port Kembla Youra Port Kembla Youra Youra Youra Youra Wagaa Waga Wagaa Waga Walington Weighted Average for State (74 Towns) | A 957 1,006 1,004 1,001 977 1,004 1,000 961 1,047 1,018 995 905 905 905 905 905 905 905 905 1,055 902 1,055 902 1,055 1,000 1,014 1,014 951 951 1,006 1,006 1,007 1,00 | B 1,266 1,359 1,444 1,290 1,303 1,418 1,584 1,290 1,355 1,350 1,497 1,355 1,350 1,497 1,354 1,314 1,292 1,357 1,344 1,376 1,350 1,434 1,350 1,300 1,350 1,300 | C 1,400 1,478 1,569 1,385 1,405 1,407 1,517 1,371 1,427 1,617 1,371 1,472 1,405 1,559 1,405 1,559 1,455 1,405 1,503 1,405 1,503 1,405 1,503 1,405 1,503 1,405 1,503 1,405 1,503 1,503 1,505 1,505 1,505 1,505 1,405 1,405 1,405 1,505 1,505 1,505 1,505 1,405 1,405 1,405 1,405 1,405 1,405 1,405 1,405 1,505 1,559 1,455 1,405 1,509 1,509 1,508 1,405 1,405 1,509 1,508 1,405 1,509 1,508 | $\begin{array}{c} \lambda \\ 1,015 \\ 1,149 \\ 1,209 \\ 1,0392 \\ 1,0392 \\ 1,0392 \\ 1,0392 \\ 1,017 \\ 1,205 \\ 1,021 \\ 1,205 \\ 1,162 \\$ | $\begin{matrix} B \\ 1, 526 \\ 1, 544 \\ 1, 541 \\ 1, 588 \\ 1, 452 \\ 1, 561 \\ 1, 728 \\ 1, 561 \\ 1, 728 \\ 1, 561 \\ 1, 551 \\ 1, 692 \\ 1, 6$ | C 3 1,643 1,643 1,643 1,643 1,643 1,643 1,645 1,656 1,949 1, | A 925 1,035 1,038 1,006 905 905 1,011 905 905 1,011 1,018 1,029 1,029 1,029 1,041 1,042 1,044 1,044 1,044 1,044 1,044 1,044 1,044 1,044 1,044 1,044 1,044 1,044 1,044 1,044 1, | $\begin{matrix} 1\\ 1,254\\ 1,408\\ 1,201\\ 1,333\\ 1,392\\ 1,373\\ 1,392\\ 1,373\\ 1,424\\ 1,409\\ 1,424\\ 1,409\\ 1,4567\\ 1,308\\ 1,308\\ 1,308\\ 1,308\\ 1,308\\ 1,308\\ 1,308\\ 1,441\\ 1,440\\ 1,340\\ 1,353\\ 1,350\\ 1,358\\ 1,350\\ 1,358\\ 1,358\\ 1,358\\ 1,358\\ 1,358\\ 1,257\\ 1,308\\ 1,257\\ 1,308\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,458\\ 1,557\\ 1$ | $\begin{array}{c} c\\ 1,400\\ 1,680\\ 1,350\\$ |
| Victoria Melbourne Ballarat Ballarat Geelong Greson and an an and an an an an an an an an an an an an an | 967 976 977 959 982 1,002 1,003 996 947 963 997 973 973 921 905 | 1,431 1,217 1,254 1,223 1,273 1,303 1,371 1,223 1,276 1,380 1,280 1,280 1,580 1,053 1,247 | 1,570 1,320 1,381 1,431 1,395 1,395 1,502 1,539 1,575 1,552 1,552 1,092 1,329 | $\begin{array}{c} 1,062\\ 1,080\\ 1,076\\ 1,054\\ 1,067\\ 1,150\\ 1,186\\ 1,114\\ 1,061\\ 1,081\\ 1,055\\ 1,073\\ 1,069\\ 1,135\\ 1,035\\ 1,035\\ 1,080\\ \end{array}$ | 1,547 1,356 1,376 1,448 1,472 1,48 1,472 1,489 1,528 1,364 1,413 1,345 1,358 1,358 1,675 1,154 1,376 | $\begin{array}{c} 1,689\\ 1,403\\ 1,473\\ 1,578\\ 1,578\\ 1,540\\ 1,602\\ 1,433\\ 1,483\\ 1,4581\\ 1,446\\ 1,454\\ 1,454\\ 1,206\\ 1,458\end{array}$ | 963 987 988 945 987 1,049 1,049 1,049 1,049 1,049 1,040 1,040 1,041 1,013 1,013 1,058 1,041 1,058 | 1,455 1,208 1,293 1,318 1,370 1,372 1,387 1,414 1,303 1,414 1,300 1,574 1,404 1,300 1,574 1,216 | 1,600 1,384 1,373 1,448 1,455 1,520 1,578 1,360 1,421 1,527 1,425 1,505 1,667 1,120 1,282 |

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Index-Numbers---Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns, etc.--continued.

| N | 1922, ovember | | N | 1028, lovember | r | N | 1924. Iovenibei | |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 4- Boomed Houses. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 5- Roomed Houses. | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses, | Food, Groceries and Reut of 5- Roomed Houses, | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses. | Food, Grocerles and Renk of 5- Roomed House a. |
| A 934 973 1,011 1,018 1,018 1,018 1,018 1,018 1,018 1,018 1,010 1,020 1,023 1,006 1,020 1,023 1,006 1,020 1,023 1,006 1,010 1,023 1,006 1,010 1,023 1,006 1,010 1,012 1,006 1,010 1,0000 1,000 1,000 1,0000 1,0000 1,0000 1,00000000 | B 1,092 1,225 1,243 1,402 1,402 1,417 1,273 1,273 1,033 1,154 1,346 1,346 1,350 1,351 1,351 1,351 1,355 1,439 1,389 1,275 1,162 1,402 1,4 | C 1,131 1,227 1,234 1,534 1,536 1,376 1,331 1,377 1,270 1,270 1,407 1,525 1,230 1,531 1,407 1,525 1,230 1,535 1,230 1,535 1,230 1,535 1,230 1,535 1,230 1,535 1,230 1,535 1,230 1,407 1,535 1,230 1,230 1,535 1,230 1,535 1,230 1,2 | A 1,067 1,069 1,131 1,140 1,147 1,147 1,147 1,147 1,147 1,146 1,084 1,124 1,084 1,146 1,168 1,149 1,297 1,29 | B 1,212 1,304 1,414 1,657 1,588 1,673 1,555 1,738 1,555 1,738 1,555 1,738 1,518 1,738 1,518 1,412 1,355 1,487 1,487 1,487 1,467 1,467 1,467 1,467 1,467 1,525 1,376 1,370 1,390 1,296 1,611 1,502 1,500 1,300 1,500 | C 1,238 1,464 1,476 1,667 1,667 1,667 1,827 1,784 1,459 1,459 1,459 1,459 1,459 1,425 1,497 1,425 1,425 1,425 1,425 1,425 1,425 1,425 1,525 1,525 1,552 1,552 1,552 1,552 1,552 1,552 1,552 1,553 1,555 1,553 1,5555 1,555 1,555 1,555 1,555 1,555 1,555 1,555 1,555 1,555 1,555 1,5 | A 990 1,026 1,070 1,085 1,065 1,065 1,065 1,065 1,037 1,084 1,019 1,084 1,019 1,040 1,041 1,041 1,041 1,045 1,041 1,045 1,041 1,045 1,045 1,041 1,045 | $\begin{array}{c} \text{H} \\ \text{H} \\ 1,147 \\ 1,355 \\ 1,590 \\ 1,4308 \\ 1,6201 \\ 1,497 \\ 1,316 \\ 1,297 \\ 1,316 \\ 1,297 \\ 1,316 \\ 1,497 \\ 1,316 \\ 1,497 \\ 1,316 \\ 1,497 \\ 1,316 \\ 1,497 \\ 1,316 \\ 1,497 \\ 1,316 \\ 1,497 \\ 1,316 \\ 1,458 \\ 1,476 \\ 1,477 \\ 1,232 \\ 1,546 \\ 1,537 \\ 1,536 \\ 1,477 \\ 1,536 \\ 1,576 \\$ | $\begin{array}{c} C\\ \mathbf{i}, 180\\ \mathbf{i}, 170\\ \mathbf{i}, 1701\\ \mathbf{i}, 1702\\ \mathbf{i}, 1742\\ \mathbf{i}, 1742\\ \mathbf{i}, 1742\\ \mathbf{i}, 1742\\ \mathbf{i}, 1742\\ \mathbf{i}, 1792\\ \mathbf{i}, 1792\\ \mathbf{i}, 1906\\ \mathbf{i}, 1792\\ \mathbf{i}, 1906\\ \mathbf{i}, 1922\\ \mathbf{i}, 1906\\ \mathbf{i}, 1922\\ \mathbf{i}, 1906\\ \mathbf{i}, 1922\\ \mathbf{i}, 1926\\ \mathbf{i}, 1922\\ \mathbf{i}, 1926\\ \mathbf{i}, 1926$ |
| 1,016 998 1,092 951 1,098 962 965 1,009 1,009 | 1,271 1,261 1,586 1,541 1,385 1,327 1,231 1,183 1,371 1,493 1,551 | 1,367 1,336 1,750 1,487 1,487 1,436 1,363 1,222 1,430 1,632 1,715 | 1,040 1,145 1,054 1,104 1,309 1,063 1,221 1,066 998 1,127 1,054 1,132 1,134 1,139 1,235 | 1,303 1,428 1,306 1,638 1,814 1,652 1,448 1,251 1,357 1,400 1,484 1,503 1,603 1,735 | 1,435 1,540 1,405 1,770 1,923 1,458 1,647 1,571 1,353 1,384 1,498 1,574 1,574 1,574 1,574 1,574 1,574 1,574 | 1,020 1,033 900 1,101 1,211 963 1,073 987 954 1,023 994 1,010 1,075 1,085 1,108 | 1,283 1,362 1,286 1,583 1,649 1,246 1,446 1,447 1,233 1,300 1,326 1,431 1,569 1,656 | 1,415 1,471 1,352 1,682 1,803 1,331 1,591 1,511 1,351 1,316 1,498 1,498 1,494 1,503 1,719 1,722 |
| 963 | 1,272 | 1,368 | 1,063 | 1,303 | 1,492 | 987 | 1,320 | 1,430 |
| | N Image: Section of the section of th | 1922, November i | $\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $ | $\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$ | $\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$ | $\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$ | November. 1028. November. November. interpretation interpretati | $ \begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$ |

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Index-Numbers-Cost of Food, Groceries, and Housing in 200 Towns, etc.-continued.

| | Ň | 1922. lovember | r. | Ň | 1923. Iovembe | r. | ĩ | 1924. To vein bei | t |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| State and Town, | Food and Groesties only. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses. | Food, Grocerles and Rent of 5. Roomed Houses. | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Grocerfes and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 5. Roomed Houses, | Food and Groceries only. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 4- Roomed Houses. | Food, Groceries and Rent of 5- Roomed Houses. |
| South Australia Auelaide | A 937 950 1,013 955 047 1,023 975 1,059 986 | B 1,418 1,245 1,297 1,305 1,294 1,294 1,294 1,184 1,348 1,348 1,348 1,348 1,348 1,362 1,652 1,392 | C 1,548 1,351 1,353 1,373 1,389 1,260 1,416 1,451 1,783 1,783 1,515 | A 1,072 1,059 1,110 1,051 1,079 1,006 1,014 1,041 1,090 1,079 1,079 1,015 1,085 1,031 1,166 1,073 | B 1,518 1,334 1,395 1,269 1,326 1,326 1,326 1,326 1,326 1,324 1,524 1,524 1,529 1,530 1,640 1,498 | C 1,635 1,530 1,354 1,470 1,470 1,400 1,623 1,640 1,651 1,751 1,759 1,639 | A 1,020 1,014 1,060 1,003 1,083 1,083 1,023 1,023 1,023 1,023 1,028 1,050 1,116 1,024 | <i>i</i> i 1,281 1,281 1,281 1,502 1,308 1,215 1,308 1,215 1,428 1,428 1,428 1,428 1,428 1,418 1,618 1,619 1,494 | C 1,645 1,373 1,316 1,584 1,445 1,445 1,445 1,445 1,440 1,582 1,511 1,620 1,774 1,744 1,744 |
| Western Australia Ferth and Fremantle Kalgoorlie aud Boulder Bunbury Bunbury Berlagtown Bridgetown Broome Carnarvon Genbushes Genotushes Katanoing Leonora and Gwalla Meekatharra Wagin York Weighted Avorage for State (18 Towns) | 908 1,154 1,081 1,046 1,045 1,308 1,308 1,308 1,239 1,009 1,229 1,045 | 1,889 1,482 1,387 1,462 1,395 1,395 1,306 1,730 1,388 1,427 1,388 1,427 1,416 | 1,577 1,557 1,542 1,497 1,648 1,467 1,549 1,467 1,549 1,467 | 1,046 1,233 1,154 1,056 1,131 1,172 1,072 1,149 1,306 1,249 1,005 1,103 1,009 1,162 1,135 1,162 1,135 1,162 | 1,446 1,580 1,510 1,420 1,570 1,468 1,281 1,560 1,964 1,743 1,467 1,473 1,467 1,474 1,475 1,4378 1,406 | $1,538 \\ 1,645 \\ 1,610 \\ 1,525 \\ 1,567 \\ 1,360 \\ 1,626 \\ 2,030 \\ 1,841 \\ 1,841 \\ 1,467 \\ 1,467 \\ 1,491 \\ 1,494 \\ 1,453 \\ 1,540 \\ 1,555 \\ 1,55$ | 1,114 1,254 1,204 1,204 1,137 1,132 1,204 1,133 1,330 1,132 1,214 1,254 1,277 1,309 1,277 1,309 1,154 1,155 1,176 | $\begin{array}{c} 1,527\\ 1,590\\ 1,4906\\ 1,507\\ 1,632\\ 1,3066\\ 1,538\\ 1,988\\ 1,710\\ 1,649\\ 1,557\\ 1,627\\ 1,628\\ 1,459\\ 1,557\\ 1,628\\ 1,459\\ 1,557\\ 1,628\\ 1,536\\ \end{array}$ | 1,618 1,651 1,012 1,004 1,004 2,053 1,776 1,632 1,406 1,577 1,577 1,574 1,674 |
| Tasmania Hobart Burnie Burnie Devonport Braconshekd Campbelltown Deloraine Franklin New Norfolk Scottsdale Ulverstone Uverstone Weighted Average State (13 Towns) | 1,013 1,007 1,028 1,010 1,009 995 979 1,024 1,051 1,116 1,020 | 1,416 1,374 1,454 1,421 1,356 1,009 1,257 1,257 1,251 1,251 1,375 | 1,502 1,536 1,490 1,435 1,435 1,435 1,435 1,435 1,435 1,327 1,327 1,327 1,519 | 1,114 1,112 1,174 1,214 1,019 1,052 1,019 1,043 1,129 1,251 1,251 | 1,574 1,490 1,583 1,506 1,478 1,200 1,197 1,314 1,372 1,392 1,392 1,415 1,526 | 1,762 1,657 1,746 1,083 1,556 1,225 1,308 1,457 1,351 1,465 1,465 1,468 1,468 | 1,051 1,057 1,042 1,080 1,045 1,040 1,045 1,014 1,032 1,033 1,033 1,033 1,035 | 1,579 1,444 1,485 1,524 1,448 1,259 1,363 1,386 1,386 1,380 1,380 1,380 | 1,724 1,610 1,621 1,641 1,257 1,257 1,338 1,325 1,400 1,418 1,477 1,430 |
| GES Weighted Average for Australia (200 Towns) | 998 | 1,415 | 1,526 | 1,083 | 1,526 | 1,642 | 1,012 | 1,472 | 1,597 |

* Figures not available for 1923.

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By deducting the index-number in column A from those in columns B and C, the relative aggregate expenditure on housing is ascertained. Thus for November, 1924, the index-number for food and groceries in Melbourne (column A) is 963. Subtracting this from 1,455 (column B) gives a difference of 492, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 4 rooms, and from 1,600 (column C) gives a difference of 637, which is the relative cost of house rent for houses of 5 rooms. The relative cost of housing can be ascertained similarly for each of the towns included.

3. Comparisons with Quarterly Results.—To determine the accuracy of the figures relating to variations in prices prior to 1912 for the capital cities only, and those since the beginning of 1912 for the 30 towns, the comparisons of the results have been made annually.

In the following table, the first line in each division shows the indexnumbers derived from the special inquiry covering 200 towns; the second line gives the results obtained from the returns received for the month of November, 1924, for the five towns in each State from which regular monthly returns are received; and the last line gives the results obtained from the November returns for the capital cities only. The capital cities are, of course, included in each of the other two investigations, and the five towns in each State are included in the investigation for "all towns":---

| Particulars. | N.S.W. | Vic. | Q'land. | 8.A. | W.A. | Tae, | Weighted Average. |
|--------------|--------|------|---------|------|------|------|----------------------|
| | | | | | | | |

Retail Price Index-Numbers-States, 1924.

| All Towns* | · 1,011 | 961 | 975 | J,011 | 1,124 | 1,047 | 1,000 |
|---------------------|---------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| State | 1,016 | 937 | 961 | 1,014 | 1,123 | 1,051 | 1,000 |
| Capital Cities only | 1,017 | 958 | 966 | 1,016 | 1,109 | 1,046 | 1,000 |

| RENT, | 5 ROOMED | HOUSES. |
|-------|----------|---------|
|-------|----------|---------|

| All Towns* | 1,077 | 1,028 | 757 | 1,012 | 832 | 1,005 | 1,000 |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------|
| State | 1,086 | 1,020 | 721 | 1,000 | 820 | 1,030 | 1,000 |
| Capital Cities only | 1,072 | 1,023 | 727 | 1,002 | 809 | 1,080 | 1,000 |

| All Towns* | 1,035 | 986 | 895 | 1,012 | 1,017 | 1,031 | 1,000 |
|---------------------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| State | 1,042 | 981 | 871 | 1,009 | 1,010 | 1,043 | 1,000 |
| Capital Cities only | 1,038 | 983 | 875 | 1,010 | 994 | 1,059 | 1,000 |

FOOD AND GROCERIES AND RENT.

* For list of towns included, see Tables on pages 40 to 43.

The index-numbers for November, 1918 to 1924, computed from the three sets of data mentioned above with 1913 as base (=1,000), are shown in the following table :---

Retail Price Index-Numbers-Australia, 1918 to 1924.

| | Partículars. | 1913. | 1918. | 1919. | 1920. | 1921. | 1922. | 1923. | 1924. |
|--|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|--|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

FOOD AND GROCERIES.

| All Towns* | 1,000 | 1,435 | 1,706 | 2,002 | 1,578 | 1,558 | 1,689 | 1,581 |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Fivo Towns in each State | 1,000 | 1,430 | 1,701 | 2,007 | 1,577 | 1,564 | 1,688 | 1,581 |
| Capital Citics only | 1,000 | 1,440 | 1,715 | 2,021 | 1,588 | 1,580 | 1,699 | 1,594 |

RENT OF 5-ROOMED HOUSES.

| Ill Towns* | 1,000 | 1,031 | 1,103 | 1,228 | 1,268 | 1,347 | 1,433 | 1,494 |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1,000 | 1,039 | 1,110 | 1,235 | 1,271 | 1,347 | 1,421 | 1,484 |
| | 1,000 | 1,033 | 1,099 | 1,225 | 1,261 | 1,336 | 1,374 | 1,439 |

FOOD, GROCERIES, AND RENT.

| All Towns* | 1,000 | 1,282 | 1,477 | 1,709 | 1,461 | 1,478 | 1,592 | 1,548 |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Five Towns in each State | 1,000 | 1,278 | 1,471 | 1,706 | 1,458 | 1,480 | 1,584 | 1,543 |
| Capital Cities only | 1,000 | 1,274 | 1,464 | 1,697 | 1,455 | 1,480 | 1,566 | 1,531 |

The figures in the vertical columns show merely the increase or decrease in cost in November of each year compared with November, 1913, for "All Towns," "Five Towns in each State," and "Capital Cities only " respectively.

· See note to preceding table.

The index-numbers in the first line of each division of the table just given refer to 100 towns for November, 1913; to 150 towns for November, 1916 to 1922; and to 200 towns for November, 1923, and November, 1924. The general closeness of the results is remarkable, and indicates that the index-numbers for the capital cities only for the years prior to 1912, and for the 30 towns for 1912 and subsequent years reflect with a substantial degree of accuracy the variations in retail prices for Australia. During the period November, 1913, to November, 1924, the average cost of food and groceries throughout Australia increased 58.1 per cent.; house rents increased 49.4 per cent.; the aggregate result showing an increase of approximately 54.8 per cent.

§ 5. International Comparison of Price Index-Numbers.

1. Wholesale Prices—Australia and other Countries.—The following table gives index-numbers of wholesale prices for the years 1913 to 1924 in Australia and other countries, the prices for the year 1913, the year before the war, being taken as base (= 1,000). These figures are obtained chiefly from the "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics" published by the League of Nations. It must be understood that the figures do not show the relative prices in the various countries, but the fluctuations in prices in each country separately.

Index-Numbers, Wholesale Prices, Various Countries 1913 to 1924 (Prices in 1913 as Base = 1,000).

| | | | | | | | | | _ | | | | | | | | _ | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|-------------|------------|---|------------------------------------|--|-----------|--|--|----------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|--------------|-------|
| | United Kingdom. | | | A USTRIA | | A USTRIA. | | BELGIUM. | BRITISH INDIA (CALCUTTA). | CHINA | (SHANGHAJ). | SLOVAKIA. | D ENMARK. | Denote 11 Jan | TOUTOR FAST | EGYPT. (CALRO). | FRANCE. | FINLAND. | <u> G</u> rr | MANY. |
| YEAR. | Board of Trade. | " Statist." | "Economist." | Otheia | J, | Official | Official, | Official. | | Official. | " Finansti danda " | nenne, | Official. | Officia). | Official. | Official. | 00 | ોછોત્રો. | | |
| A ver- age. 1913 1914 1916 1910 1910 1917 1918 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 | 1,000 3 073 1,972 1,588 1,589 1,662 | 1,000 1,000 1,271 1,595 2,001 2,265 2,419 2,953 1,824 1,541 1,518 1,640 | 1,000 987 1,231 1,605 2,041 2,351 2,351 2,832 1,810 1,595 1,621 1,739 | c1 | ,000 | a1,000 | d1,000 1,120 1,280 1,470 1,800 1,980 2,040 1,810 1,810 1,800 1,760 1,770 | el,(1, 1, 1, 1, 1, | 520 502 502 502 502 502 502 502 502 502 | .900 | h 1,3408944 1,340894 1,340894 1,3 1,3 1,2 2,3 3 1,5 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2 1,2 2,3 1,4 2,3 1,2 2,3 1,2,3 1,2 2,2 2,3 1,2 2,2 2,2 2,2 2,2 2,2 2,2 2,2 2,2 2,2 | 00 40 90 60 40 20 00 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 | 1,000 | 1,00 1,03 1,28 1,76 2,11 2,11 3,10 0,1,73 0,1,40 0,1,32 0,1,45 | 1,0 1,0 1,3 0 1,3 0 1,8 0 2,0 0 3,5 0 3,5 0 5,0 0 8,4 0 3,2 0 4,1 0 4,8 | 00 1,0 20 98 32 92 92 92 92 92 92 92 92 92 92 92 92 92 92 92 92 92 93 1 93 10 94 11.8 950 12.1 850 10.9 885 11.0 | 30 30 90 50 4166 | 1,000 1,060 1,420 1,530 1,700 2,170 4,160 14,800 19,110 341,820 ,198,737 <i>f</i> 1,225 | | |
| | 17 | л 1 т. | JAPAN. | NETHER- LANDS, | NORWAY. | | POLANI | ». | SPAIN. | Guenev | | SWITZER- LAND. | F | STATES. | A USTRALIA. | CARADA. | NEW ZEA- LAND. | SOUTH A FRICA. | | |
| YEAR. | " Bacht." | Camera di Commercio di Milano. | Bank of Japan. | Official. | Official | | Official | | Official. | C Bolo | Uniciai. | " Lorenz." | | Bureau or Labour Statistics | Official. | O⊞cta1. | Official. | Official. | | |
| A ver- age. 1918 1914 1915 1915 1916 1917 1918 1919 1920 1921 1922 1922 1922 | 1,000 951 1,327 1,097 3,063 4,091 3,658 6,244 5,775 5,623 5,746 5,850 | 1,900 5,170 5,290 5,360 5,540 | 1,00 95 96 1,17 1,48 2,35 2,59 2,00 1,95 1,99 2,06 | 1,000 5 1,090 8 1,460 1 2,260 5 2,760 8 3,730 9 3,040 4 2,920 4 1,820 4 1,610 5 1,560 | 22 | 320 670 | ł * 241, * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * | 728 859 102 | 1,000 1,010 1,190 1,410 1,660 2,070 2,040 2,210 1,900 1,780 1,780 1,780 | | 900 - - - 590 220 730 630 620 | d1,0 | 00 12 75 06 46 | 1,000 980 1,010 1,270 1,940 2,060 2,260 1,470 1,490 1,640 1,500 | 1,000 1,056 1,474 1,382 1,628 1,778 1,889 2,279 1,749 1,616 1,787 1,733 | 1,000 1,023 1,099 1,816 1,785 1,990 2,0435 1,718 1,520 1,530 1,551 | 1,044 1,230 1,337 1,507 1,758 1,777 2,117 2,007 1,775 1,747 1,798 | 1,000 966 1,070 1,226 1,407 1,631 1,648 2,288 2,288 2,288 1,284 1,284 1,284 | | |

a April. b Average for the last five months. c First six months. d July. c February. f Gold mark prices. g For "Ekonomisk Revue" series from 1913 to 1923 see Labour Report No. 14, p. 188. A End of the year. s 000,000 omitted. g Average for the last eight months. & January, f Dased on "Zloty" prices—1 zloty being equal to 1,800,000 paper marks.

2. Retail Prices—Australia and other Countries.—The following table gives index-numbers of retail prices, (a) cost of living, including articles other than food, and (b) food only for the month of July in each year from

1914 to 1924, and where available, for January, 1925, the prices for July, 1914 being taken as base (= 1,000). It must be understood, however, that the figures which have been obtained chiefly from the "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics," published by the League of Nations, show merely the fluctuations in prices in each individual country, and are not comparable horizontally.

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in various Countries for the Month of July, 1914 to 1924, and January, 1925, with Prices in July, 1914 as Base (⇒ 1,000).

(a) COST OF LIVING.

| | | | | | | | | _ | _ | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | UNITED KINGDOM. | AUSTI | KÉA. | BRIGIUM. | BULØARIA. | D ENMARK. | | FINLAND. | | FRANCE. | | GI | ERM | ANV. | | ГТАБҮ. | LUXEMBURG. |
| No. of To and Localiti | owns les. | 630 | Vien | na. | 59 | 4 | 100 |) | 2 | 1 | Paris | | 71 | | Ber)iı | n, | Milan. | L'x'm- bourg. |
| July 191 , 191 , 191 , 191 , 191 , 191 , 192 , 192 , 192 , 192 Jan, 192 | 14 15 16 17 18 19 10 11 12 13 14 | 1,000 1,250 1,480 1,800 2,100 2,150 2,550 2,220 1,810 1,710 1,710 1,710 | 0 11 24 51 99 2,64 10,903 12,393 13,76 | 1,000 ,600 3,400 5,700 1,600 5,000 1,000 5,110 3,000 1,000 2,000 | 1,000 1,090 1,250 1,390 | 9 1,000 1,220 12,360 18,880 19,730 26,740 25,330 29,100 931,650 | $\begin{array}{c} 1,$ | 000 160 160 160 100 100 100 140 210 | 1, 51, 52, 55, 59, 9, 12, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11 | 000 430 510 880 640 810 140 420 110 540 090 | c1,00 c2,36 3,01 a3,01 a3,03 d3,60 y3,7 | 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1 | 1.0 9,3: 11.2: e53.90 7,651.00 d1,1 d1,2 | 50 50 20 60 | 1 | 1,000 1,250 1,250 1,220 8,100 1,017 1,078 | 1,000 2,860 2,800 4,410 4,910 4,880 4,870 5,120 5,800 | t,000 |
| | | NORWAT. | Po | GAND. | • | SPAIN. | SWEDEN. | SWITZER- | LAND. | BRUTISH | INDIA. | SOUTH AFRICA. | CANADA. | | UNITED STATES. | | A USTRATIA. | NEW ZBALAND. |
| No. of To and Localiti | owns ies. | 30 | Wa | rsaw. | Ma | arka. | 40 | ! | 23 | Bo ba | m - y. | 9 | 6 | 0 | 32 | | 30 | 25 |
| July 191 , 191 , 191 , 191 , 191 , 191 , 191 , 192 , 192 , 192 , 192 , 192 , 192 , 192 , 192 , 192 , 191 , 192 , 193 , 192 , 193 , 192 , 193 , 192 , 193 , 192 , 193 , 192 , 193 , 192 , 193 , 192 , 193 , 192 , 193 , 192 , 193 , 193 | 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 | 4 1,00 1,17 1,46 1,90 2,53 2,75 3,02 2,55 2,39 2,55 2,39 2,51 p2,67 | 000000000000000000000000000000000000000 | f 1,0 f111,3 257,0 787,9 (1,5 1,5 | 100 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | # .080 .160 .1260 .540 .540 .540 .890 .890 .890 .840 .840 .840 .840 .840 .840 .840 .840 | a 1,000 1,150 1,590 2,190 2,570 2,300 1,900 1,740 1,710 1,780 | 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | a 1900 1,400 2,290 2,610 2,530 2,530 2,530 1,580 1,680 1,680 | | ,000 ,490 ,860 ,900 ,770 ,650 ,530 ,570 ,570 | 9 1,0 1,1 1,2 1,3 1,4 1,3 1,3 1,3 1,3 1,3 | 00 1, 50 1, 20 1, 20 1, 10 1, 50 1, 90 1, 50 1, 90 1, 50 1, 30 1, 30 1, | 970 970 300 460 550 550 470 450 450 ,450 | j1.0 f1.0 f1.1 f1.4 f1.3 a1.3 a2,1 k1.8 a1.5 a1.5 a1.5 a1.5 a1.5 a1.5 a1.5 a1.5 | 100 150 180 120 740 770 170 300 370 370 370 370 370 370 | ** 1,000 1,186 1,151 1,157 1,179 1,317 1,448 1,416 1,544 1,466 1,488 | A 1,000 1,082 1,168 1,282 1,440 1,673 1,815 1,782 1,580 1,584 1,605 91,605 |
| | | | | | (| b) PRIC | CES 0 | F) | FOO | DST | UFFS | • | | | | | | |
| | | | UNITED KINGDOM. | AUS | TRIA, | BELGIUM. | CZECHO- SLOVAKIA. | | Дакитар | | FIRLAND. | | JAR. | ANG | E | | GERMANY. | NETHER- LANDS. |
| No. o Loc | of Tow and alitie: | 70,9 8. | 630 | Vle | una. | 59 | Who Count | le TY | 10 | ю | 21 | | Paris. | | 320 | | 71 | Amster- dam. |
| July 191 , 191 , 191 , 191 , 191 , 191 , 192 , 192 , 192 , 192 , 192 | 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 | ··· ·· ·· ·· | 1,000 1,320 1,610 2,040 2,100 2,170 2,620 2,260 1,750 | | 1,000 |) | 2 1,0 ··· ··· ··· ··· ··· | 1 00 | n 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 | ,280 ,280 ,660 ,870 ,530 ,530 | 1,0 10,1 13,2 11,4 | 00 30 30 | 1,000 1,200 1,290 1,830 2,060 2,610 3,730 8,060 2,974 | | n 1,230 1,420 1,840 2,440 2,890 3,880 3,730 3,730 | 1 | 1,000 | 9 1,000 1,140 1,170 1,460 1,750 2,100 1,800 1,800 |
| ., 192 ., 192 ., 193 Jan, 193 | 23 24 25 | ••• | 1,650 1,640 1,760 | 12, 14. 16, | 911,000 362,00 446,00 | $\begin{array}{c c} 1,050 \\ 1,240 \\ 0 \\ 1,410 \\ \end{array}$ | 9,2 9,0 9,0 | 10)90 310 | 41 42 2 | ,880 2,000 2,160 | 10,0 10,1 11,3 | 20 20 20 | 3,210 3,600 4,080 | | a3,370 14,010 14,280 | 46,5 | 10,000 11,260 41,366 | 1,390 1,390 <i>p</i> 1,500 |

Index-Numbers of Retail Prices in Various Countries, &c.-continued.

| | Italy: | | Poland, | SWRDEN. | SWRDEN. Switzer- Land. | | South Africa. | САКАРА. | UNITED STATES. | A USTRALIA. | NEW Zealard. | |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|-------------------|---|--|--|
| No. of Towns and Localities, | Milan. | 30 | Warsaw. | 49 | 23 | Bom- bay. | ŷ | 60 | 51 | 30 | 26 | |
| July 1914 " 1915 " 1016 " 1017 " 1913 " 1920 " 1921 " 1922 " 1922 " 1922 " 1922 " 1923 | 1,000 1,510 2,100 3,100 4,450 5,080 4,920 4,960 5,080 5,900 | 1,005 a1,230 a2,030 a2,030 a2,710 a2,300 3,190 2,330 2,180 2,180 2,486 2,770 | ^t 1,000 456,550 1,298,110 714 1,391 1,754 | 4 1,230 1,230 1,340 1,770 2,580 3,180 2,310 1,780 1,550 1,700 | 0 1,000 1,190 1,410 1,790 2,220 2,2890 2,070 1,530 1,620 1,640 1,650 | 1,000 1,740 1,600 1,430 1,510 1,520 | 1,000 1,070 1,160 1,280 1,800 1,800 1,970 1,390 1,160 1,160 1,170 1,200 | 1,000 1,040 1,570 1,750 1,860 2,270 1,860 1,380 1,380 1,370 1,370 1,450 | 1,600 | 1,000 1,308 1,302 1,263 1,302 1,263 1,302 1,302 1,302 1,482 1,644 1,485 1,484 | 1,00 1,121 1,19 1,263 1,39 1,63 1,63 1,63 1,63 1,43 1,43 1,43 1,43 1,43 1,43 1,43 | |

(b) PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS-continued.

a June. b January. c First half of the year. d Gold mark prices. e Since January 1922, lucluding elothing. f December. q Averages for years specified. h From 1015 for month of August. s Figure for the whole country. f Average for 1913. k May. I including fuel and soop. m Average of selectod week in the middle of the year. n Quarterly indoxes, from 1014 to 1010, third quarter of each year. q 1st June. p December, 1923. q February. r August. s November, 1924. f From 1023 " Zlotv" prices. u Third Quarter of each year specified excepting 1925 which is the first quarter figure.

CHAPTER II.---WAGES.

§1. Operations Under Arbitration and Wages Board Acts.

1. General.—Particulars regarding operations under the Commonwealth Arbitration Acts and the various State Acts for the regulation of wages and hours and conditions of labour, showing the number of boards authorized and constituted, also those which had and which had not made any award or determination in each State, the number and territorial scope of awards or determinations, and the number of industrial agreements in force, were first compiled to the 31st December, 1913.*

These particulars have from time to time been revised, and reviews to the end of approximately quarterly periods have been published in the periodical Labour Bulletins and Quarterly Summaries to the 31st December, 1924.

[•]Information as to the main provisions of the various Acts in force may be found in the Official Year Book No. 16, pages 568 to 571.